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*Town of Wheelock*

*Wheelock Village*





# Town of Wheelock

*Vermont's Gift to Dartmouth College*

By ELEANOR JONES HUTCHINSON



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TO  
THE PEOPLE OF WHEELLOCK





## *Preface*

Fifty years ago material for a history of the Town of Wheelock was collected by three native sons, Ferdinand W. Chase, William H. Taylor and Ozias D. Mathewson. This common interest animated the greater part of their lives. It was their intent to publish their collections in book form but the death of each in the succeeding years prevented this wish from being carried out.

After the death of Mr. Mathewson, his historical material on Wheelock was presented to the Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vt. by his wife. This material forms the core of this book and accounts for the frequent quotations from ODM, FWC and Judge Taylor.

The Mathewson Papers contain an interesting variety of early town records, ledgers, diaries, store receipts, receipts from Dartmouth College, anecdotes, and some genealogical data relative to Wheelock, from which I have drawn what seems essential for a brief history of the town. I have relied on the authenticity of this material, as being much nearer the people and sources than anything I could get at this later time. The occasional repetitions, although not desirable, are more or less inevitable when the same few men took part in all town affairs in the early days. Any mistakes as to dates, names and places may be corrected by readers with a more intimate knowledge than mine.

The Dartmouth College Archives at Baker Memorial Library, Hanover, N. H. are a source of valuable material on the early settlement of Wheelock, having old record books of leaseholders and correspondence between the College and its Wheelock agents. I have used only so much of this source as would illustrate the unique position of the Town of Wheelock in the early affairs of the College and its Indian Charity School.

I thank Dr. Richard G. Wood, Director, and Miss Clara E. Follett, Librarian, of the Vermont Historical Society (VHS) and their several staff members for their enthusiastic help over the past three years. Gratitude goes to Mr. Richard W. Morin, Librarian of Dartmouth College, for permission to use the manuscripts and maps necessary to the book, and to Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Hanna of the Archives Department for their tireless search for Wheelock treasures. The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum proved a valuable center for reference books and early newspapers of the area and the librarian and staff deserve thanks for their co-operation.

Many people have encouraged me in the making of this book and I am very grateful to them, but I am probably most indebted to Mrs. Grace Hoyt Mathewson, Mrs. Nellie Hoyt Gilman and Mr. Stephen C. Cree, whose ancestors, like mine, were early settlers in Wheelock, Vermont.

St. Johnsbury, Vt.  
August, 1961

ELEANOR J. HUTCHINSON

# Illustrations

	<i>title page</i>
Wheelock Hollow village	
Wheelock-Sheffield line (map)	2
Wheelock-Goshen Gore line (map)	3
Thomas Clarke & Co. grant	5
Bamf (map)	7
No. 25 (map)	9
St. Mary's survey	10
Rev. Eleazar Wheelock, John Wheelock, Dartmouth Hall in 1790	12
"Ruff mountain" Letter of Abraham Morrill	18
Moses Wells's Bond	20
Moses Wells's Lease	22
Wheelock Writ	26
First Road (map)	54
Wheelock Hollow, 1858 (map)	59
Bradley's Liquor License	60
Bradley's Patent Medicine List	63
Kidder's Letter to Bradley	67
Erastus Fairbanks, B. F. Taylor, Village Store	72
Receipt from Pres. John Wheelock	75
Receipt from Wm. H. Woodward	76
Notices of D. C. Land Suits	77
Receipt from Rev. Elijah Willey	78
Public Notice 1812	81
Receipt from Pres. Francis Brown	82
Receipt from Rev. Bennett Tyler	88
Receipt from Mills Olcott	89
Rev. Dr. Nathan Lord	95
Letters, Wheelock P. O. 1812	96
Post Rider advertisement	97
Concord R. R. bill of lading	100
Connecticut & Passumpsic Rivers R. R. bill of lading	101
General tax list 1817	102
Wheelock Hollow School District No. 4 (map)	112
Notice of John Monroe	122
Thomas Jefferson Cree, Henry C. Bates, Charles Rogers, Jr.	124
Rev. Jonathan Woodman	127
Judge W. H. Taylor, Ferd W. Chase, Ozora S. Davis, Ozias D. Mathewson	129
South Wheelock Church	140
Wheelock Village Church	141
Old Mill	149
A. J. Rennie Sawmill	151
Mills on Millers Run	151
S. C. Cree Shops	152
Pine-Tree Creamery	153
Wheelock Village 1875 (map)	154
Shoeing Oxen	156
American Botanist & Family Physician	160
Mineral Spring Kiosk	165
Caledonia Mineral Spring Hotel	166
Mineral Spring Prospectus	167
The Brown Bottle	168
Strayed Cattle Notice	169
The Hunter Notice	170
Farm to Let Notice	170
Soldiers Monument	179
Mechanics Hall	180
Wheelock Flag	189

## MAPS

- Wheelock, original leaseholders, from Dartmouth College records and copy in Mathewson Papers, VHS
- Wheelock, from H. F. Walling's map of Caledonia County, 1858
- Wheelock, from Beers Atlas of Caledonia County, 1875
- Wheelock, from hand-drawn original in Mathewson Papers, VHS, showing farm owners of a later day



# Contents

<i>Chapter</i>		<i>page</i>
I	LOCATION AND INDIAN LORE	1
II	UNPROMISED LAND	6
III	DARTMOUTH COLLEGE STORY	13
IV	SOMETHING MORE THAN CLIFFS AND ROCKS	17
V	CLOUDS	24
VI	EARLY SETTLERS	29
VII	REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS IN WHEELLOCK	32
VIII	FIRST TOWN MEETING	40
IX	FIRST MEETINGHOUSE	43
X	FIRST 27 TOWN REPRESENTATIVES	46
XI	EARLY ROADS	53
XII	COUNTRY STORE	60
XIII	BUSINESS LETTERS TO WARD BRADLEY	66
XIV	YOUR ASHES	69
XV	PREPARATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE	73
XVI	WHEELLOCK HELPS EDUCATE THE INDIAN	75
XVII	WHEELLOCK IN THE WAR OF 1812	81
XVIII	DARTMOUTH COLLEGE CASE	87
XIX	ERA OF GOOD FEELING	92
XX	POSTAL SERVICE	96
XXI	FREIGHTING FROM BOSTON	99
XXII	TAXATION, GRAND LISTS & SIMILAR MATTERS	103
XXIII	SCHOOLS	107
XXIV	DOCTORS	121
XXV	LAWYERS	125
XXVI	MINISTERS	127
XXVII	NATIVE SONS	130
XXVIII	RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES AND CHURCHES	135
XXIX	MILLSITES AND WATER PRIVILEGES	148
XXX	CRAFTSMEN, MERCHANTS AND OTHERS	155
XXXI	THE AMERICAN BOTANIST	161
XXXII	OLD TAVERNS	164
XXXIII	ANIMALS	169
XXXIV	MAINLY ABOUT WEATHER	171
XXXV	ALARUMS AND EXCURSIONS	174
XXXVI	READING CLUBS AND LIBRARIES	176
XXXVII	CELEBRATIONS AND DEDICATIONS	177
XXXVIII	PRICES CURRENT	182
XXXIX	TO TURN A HAND	184
XL	WHEELLOCK IN THE WAR OF THE UNION	187
XLI	THOSE WERE THE HAPPY DAYS	199
XLII	BURIAL GROUNDS	203
	HISTORIC MARKERS	207
	WHEELLOCK MEN IN WAR SERVICE	208
	TOWN OFFICERS, SELECTMEN, REPRESENTATIVES, POPULATION RECORDS	209-217
	SOURCE MATERIAL	
	MAPS	
	INDEX	



## Chapter I

# Location and Indian Lore

Wheelock lies in the northerly part of Caledonia County, State of Vermont in latitude  $44^{\circ} 33'$  and longitude  $72^{\circ} 5' W$ . The township is very irregular in shape, its original rectangular plan being altered by the annexation of a gore on the east, and by the setting off of a gore on the south and west to Goshen, later called Stannard.

There is a tradition in the town that a part of the original plan for Sheffield was so changed as to give to Wheelock the water privileges it now enjoys on Miller Run. This is often referred to as "a good piece of town cobbling" and a study of the early maps of Surveyor-General Whitelaw show such to have actually taken place.

According to its charter, Wheelock contains 23,040 acres and covers an area about six miles square. It is bounded on the north by Sheffield; on the east by Lyndon and Sutton; south by Danville; southwest by Stannard; and west by Greensboro, Orleans County.

The general surface of the town is rolling and uneven, with a continuous chain of hills extending from south to north across the western part of the township. The three highest in this chain are, from south to north, Ide Mountain, 2633 ft.; Wheelock Mountain, 2783 ft.; and Dunn Mountain, 1965 ft. Southmayde Hill (on modern maps spelled South Maid) took its name from Ebenezer Southmayde, who in 1825 leased three-quarters of Lot No. 171, which includes this hill.

At the time of the first survey, there were two ponds recorded in the township: Wheelock, or Flagg, Pond lying west of the chain of hills in the southwestern part of the township; and Chandler Pond in the southeastern section. Flagg Pond is said to cover about 100 acres and its waters flow into the Lamoille River, thence into Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence River. Chandler Pond was originally a beaver pond of about fifty acres in extent but was later increased when Theodore N. Vail raised the height of the man-made dam so as to have a greater water reservoir for his farms in Lyndon. The waters from Chandler Pond flow into the South Wheelock Branch of the Passumpsic River and thence into the Connecticut River, Bean Pond, formerly called

Pretty Pond, is a man-made pond on the original Joseph Bean grant. The Wheelock-Lyndon town line crosses the pond from north to south.

Wheelock is well watered by streams commencing on both sides of the central chain of hills. Morrison Brook and Stannard Brook rise on the western slopes, forming tributaries of the Lamoille, a short stretch of which passes through the northwestern corner of Wheelock township. Borough (Burroughs) Brook; South Wheelock Branch (Williams River); Fall Brook, Roaring Brook, Rapid Brook and Miller Run, all flow from the eastern slope. Mathewson Brook, fed by small tributaries, flows through the northeastern corner of the town and empties into Miller Run just below Wheelock Village.

The story in connection with the naming of Miller Run, the principal stream of the village, is that, when the original surveying party was at work in the area, one of the party, Miller, ran away. Tradition has it that Surveyor-General James Whitelaw, who was in charge of the survey, thereafter called the stream, "Miller's Run." Archaelus Miles was one of the local men on this survey, it is said.

### THE INDIANS

Most towns, when taking a long look back to their origins, like to find some connection, or hint of it, with the Indians. The tie with the Indian is strong in many parts of Vermont, especially along the great water routes of Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River. It is known that the Passumpsic River was also used as a smaller highway by the Indians, who were mostly of the St. Francis Tribe of Quebec Province. Although their regular portage was by way of the Clyde and Nulhegan Rivers, when crossing from Lake Memphremagog to the Connecticut, sometimes they crossed to the headwaters of the Passumpsic and followed that river south to the Connecticut. (*History of Vermont, Benjamin H. Hall, p. 22*)

There seems to be no indication that Indians settled in Wheelock but they evidently hunted and fished in the area while en route. When Ebenezer Chandler came with his wife and children to Wheelock in 1795 there was still evidence of the old



## TOWN OF WHEELOCK



Plan of Towns South and East of Lake Memphremagog and West of the Passumpsic River 1792, showing addition of Sheffield land to Wheelock. (Surveyor-General's Papers, Secty. State Office, Montpelier, Vt.)

beaver dam that made Chandler Pond. On the edge of the pond his ten year old son, John, found the remnants of an Indian birchbark canoe. (Letter from Natt Chandler of Timewell, Ill. to Judge W. H. Taylor Apr. 9, 1916. Natt E. Chandler was great grandson of Ebenezer Chandler and Sally Sargent Chandler. Mathewson Papers, Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier)

Slight as this tie may seem, the inhabitants of Wheelock were further tied to the Indian in a way not enjoyed by any other Vermont town. As it developed, Wheelock was bound to the Indian by the State Legislature . . . not to usurp his coos, his fishing pool, or his drinking spring, but to contribute to his Christian education.



Wheelock after the setting off of Goshen Gore.  
(Surveyor-General's Papers Vol. I, Secty. of State Office, Montpelier)

#### FIRST EXPLORERS

There is no record of the first white man to traverse what is now called Wheelock. It was not until after the close of the French and Indian Wars that it was deemed safe to explore this area very thoroughly.

A map of Vermont, reputed to be of about this time, states on the unmapped area north of Wells

River, "Some hunters have travelled through this Wilderness from Wells River to Lake Memphremagog and judged the shortest distance this way to be about 50 miles." (Collins, *History of Vermont*, p. 40)

In describing the background of Caledonia County, *Hemenway's Gazetteer* states in Vol. I, p. 269:



In 1760 Samuel Stevens was employed by a land company to explore this part of Caledonia County to find out the best lands for settlement. He, with others, began at the mouth of the White River and proceeded up the Connecticut River till they came to the head branches of the Onion River, which rise in the southwest part of the County and not many miles from the Connecticut. Thence they went down the Onion River to Lake Champlain. Then, beginning at the mouth of the Lamoille River, they proceeded up that stream to its head branches in the western part of this County, through which they passed to the Connecticut.

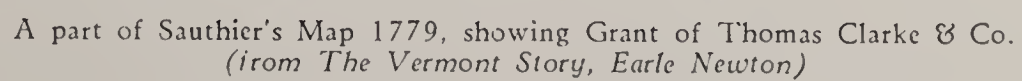
It would be interesting to learn what route Samuel Stevens and his party took to get from the upper Lamoille to the Connecticut. They may have passed through Wheelock to reach the Passumpsic,

but no records have yet been found to make this thought more than a supposition.

Col. Frye Bayley of Peacham, one of the original lessees of Wheelock, in his *Reminiscences* (VHS Publications Vol. IV, p. 30) states:

Sometime previous to 1776 Col. Jacob Bayley and Col. Sam'l Stevens of Charlestown had surveyed and measured the distance on a direct line from Macindoes falls in Barnet to Swanton falls on the Misisque River. Their idea was to obtain grants of land. It was reported that they had sent in petitions to N. Y. for a grant of all the lands lying between the two Rivers extending northward from this line, which extended 78 miles, to the frontier of Canada.

This would, of course, have included what was later designated as Wheelock.





## Chapter II

# The Unpromised Land

It is hard to believe today, when walking over the township of Wheelock and seeing its abandoned farms, its brush-grown roads, crumbling cellar holes and neglected graves, that years ago it was a land much sought after.

Some petitioned for it first hand, others wanted it as solace for the loss of other towns. Col. Moses Little of Newburyport, Mass., brother-in-law of Col. Jacob Bayley of Newbury, Vt., was even willing to take a gore of Wheelock, and whatever else the Vermont Assembly was in a mood to give him of the township, to compensate for his loss of Waterford, Concord and St. Johnsbury.

### A PETITION FOR NEW STIRLING

The first to enter a petition for some of what we now call Wheelock, together with Sheffield and Sutton, was Dr. Thomas Clark(e) of Salem, N. Y., a town just west of Manchester, Vt. In 1764 he had come from the north of Ireland with some 300 of his parishioners and, after settling some at Stillwater, N. Y., the majority of the society removed to White Creek (New Perth), N. Y., now known as Salem.

(*History of Barnet, Vt., Wells, pp. 114-115*)

Thomas Clarke and associates petitioned for 40,000 acres being "a certain Tract of Vacant Land lying and being on the East side of Lake Champlain" that they had "discovered" in Albany County. The first petition was presented Aug. 21, 1771. William Tryon was then Royal Governor of New York. They sought to call the grant NEW STIRLING. (*Vt. State Papers Vol. VII, N. Y. Grants pp. 451-456*)

The New York Council got around to reading the petition Mar. 9, 1772. On Oct. 6, 1773 a second petition was sent in, this time received by Cadwallader Colden, Esq., the Lieut. Governor of the Province of New York. He agreed that such a petition might be granted, but the list of petitioners was lacking. When the list was furnished, it was hinted, the grant could be made in the name of BAMF, to be later partitioned into the townships of Bamf and Stirling.

### FIRE AND FRUSTRATION

Everything might have gone swiftly from there, except that, by the time the third petition was filed Nov. 12, 1773, no one could find any record of the first and second ones. Dr. Clark had found some short minutes scribbled on the back of the Council record at the time the first petition had been read. As some of these notes were in the handwriting of Goldshaw Banyer, who often wrote minutes thus, the Rev. Mr. Clark deduced, and so said in his third petition, that the Governor had probably picked up the papers for his "private perusal" and, before they could be recorded by the clerk, the papers had been burned up when Fort George took fire "soon after." If the intent of the Council had been to grant the 40,000 acres, Dr. Clark "humbly hoped he would not be frustrated on account of said unfortunate Accident, after soliciting so often and so earnestly for above three years."

(*Vt. State Papers Vol. VII New York Grants, pp. 451-456*)

Thwarted as Dr. Clark seemed to have been as a land speculator, he must have been gratified with his success as preacher in the New World. In 1773 he received a visit at New Perth from Gen. James White-law of the Scots-American Company on his prospecting trip to Ryegate, Vt. In 1774 another visitor was Col. Alexander Harvey, on his way to Barnet, Vt. on behalf of the United Farmers of Scotland. So popular was the Reverend Doctor, that James Gray of Ryegate, walked the 140 miles to Salem to obtain his services as preacher. The minister of the Associate Presbyterian Church graciously responded and came on Apr. 8, 1775 to preach in Ryegate and Barnet. He repeated the visit several times during that summer and in the war years that followed. When Col. Frye Bayley marched his company from Newbury to Saratoga in 1777, they "tarried on the Sabbath (at Salem Oct. 5, 1777) to hear Mr. Clark preach." (*Vt. Historical Society Publications, Vol. IV, pp. 47-48; also History of Barnet, Wells, pp. 114-115, and Vt. State Papers Vol. V, ft. note p. 363*)





BAMF, as it appears on a map drawn by Engineer Caleb Willard to accompany a letter of July 14, 1778 from Col. Timothy Bedel to General Gates about routes for a proposed invasion of Canada. (Dartmouth College Archives, ms. No. 778 414, Hanover, N. H.)

## BAMF IS GRANTED

"George the Third, by Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King and Defender of the Faith and so Forth" finally got around, Dec. 24, 1774, to grant to his "loving Subjects" the desired land. He royally cut the acreage down to 30,000 and, of course, reserved "ALL MINES OF GOLD AND SILVER," also the "white and other sorts of PINE TREES fit for Masts for the Royal Navy." The payment was to be made yearly on Lady Day at the Customs House in New York City at 2 shillings, 6 pence per 100 acres. It was understood in writing that the grant was "by the Name of Bamf for ever hereafter to be called and known." The grant was to be recorded within six months at "Our Secretary's Office" in the city of New York, or be forfeited. (*Vt. State Papers Vol. VII, New York Grants, pp. 451-456*)

## THE QUESTION OF THE NEW YORK GRANTS

The town of Bamf was actually surveyed into 120 lots in May 1775 but the proposed settling was interrupted by the Revolutionary War. Not only was the settling of Bamf interrupted by the war, the right of ownership was also. Thus it happened that on Feb. 8, 1781, Thomas Clark, or Agent, read a petition to the Vermont General Assembly, meeting at Windsor, asserting his right and claim to Bamf by his New York Charter. Again, on Oct. 18, 1782, he thought to present a similar petition to the Assembly at Manchester, but refrained, when told that it was not considering land matters at that time.

On Oct. 13, 1785 at Windsor, Thomas Clark, Jr. (presumably the Rev. Thomas's son) presented still another petition for the confirmation of the New York grant of Bamf, saying that "last summer they had hired a Surveyor & marks men to mark a road from Barnet to Bamf & hired men to make it a good Wagon road thro' the woods for 15 miles & have agreed with a Number of Setlers who its Suposed are now at work on their farms in Bamf. They have wrote their friends in Scotland & Ireland, whom they expect to come and Setle on it in considerable Numbers next Spring. Your Petitioners have also applyd to the Reverend Associate Presbytery of New York & obtai'd a Grant of a minister to officiate among their Setlers in Bamf that the Interests of the Christian religion may not be Neglected in the New Settlement: all these preceedings have cost your Peti-

tioners great trouble & much Expenses." After which, the petitioners promise that they will be good Vermont citizens, pay all the taxes, obey the laws, and even hope to send a representative from Bamf to the General Assembly, if only that august body will please confirm their New York charter.

This petition was filed Oct. 26, 1785, with the note that it be referred to the next session. (*Vt. State Papers Vol. V, pp. 363-364*)

## DARTMOUTH COLLEGE GRANT

The Vermont Assembly received land petitions in great number at each sitting, no matter where it sat in the new Republic. In response to urgent requests from both the Rev. Eleazar Wheelock and his son, John Wheelock, dating from 1778, the Assembly had already granted to the Trustees of Dartmouth College and the President of Moors Charity School, situate at Hanover, N. H., a tract of land containing 23,000 acres, some of which was later laid down in a part of what would have been Bamf. This grant had been made on June 14, 1785 by the Assembly meeting at Norwich, Vt. This was several months before the Clark Associates pledged themselves to be good Vermont citizens.

(*State Papers, Slade. p. 497*)

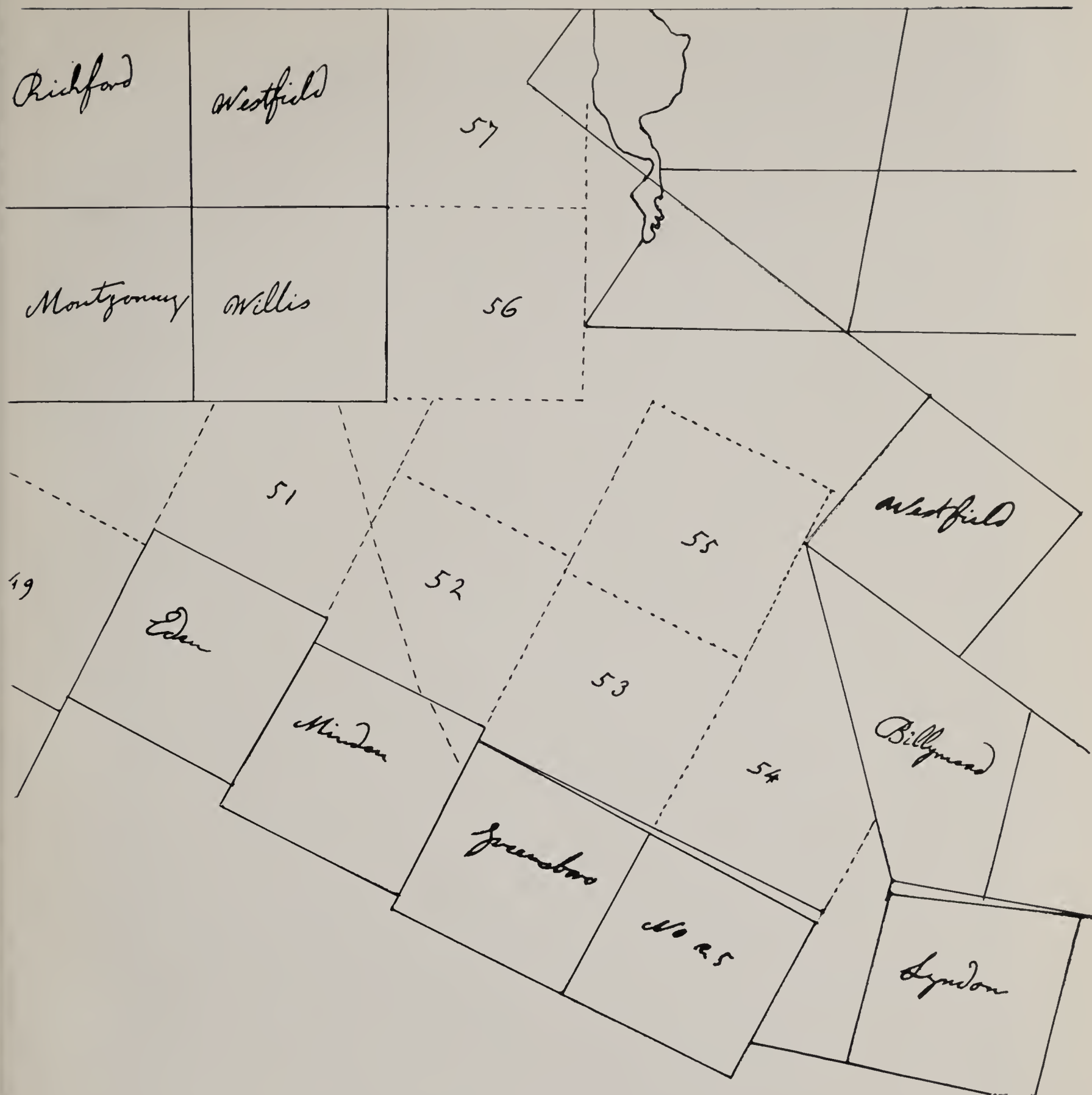
## THE DISAPPEARANCE OF BAMF

Of Bamf it can only be recorded that it went up in smoke, like the early petitions of the Rev. Thomas Clark (e) to His Majesty George III. A final plea by Dr. Clark, dated Nov. 2, 1787, was not filed until the final day of the October 1788 session of the General Assembly of Vermont. It is the last, pitiful cry of the "widows and orphans" who found the "Blow . . . exceedingly Destructive" when "Bamf now Called Billymead" was "now by mistake Granted to Dr. Arnold & his associates." At this same time Thomas Clark prays for either cash or "some quantity of land on that Vacancy Joining Peecham west line" as recompense.

(*Vt. State Papers Vol. V, pp. 404-405*)

His recompense was \$237.05, received April 25, 1799, as his portion of the \$30,000 paid by the State of Vermont to claimants holding Vermont lands under New York grants. Dr. Clarke's dream of 40,000 acres was listed in this final accounting as 4,730 acres. (*Early History of Vt., Hiland Hall, p. 510*)





## NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE

(Surveyor-General's Papers Vol. II, p. 59, Secty. of State Office, Montpelier, Vt.)

## NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE

On Nov. 1, 1786 the Vermont Assembly granted St. Johnsbury to Jonathan Arnold and Associates. As a result, Lt. Moses Little of Newburyport, Mass. lost out on his rights to Waterford, Concord and St. Johnsbury, although he had been one of the grantees of DUNMORE under a New York

charter. In consequence, he petitioned the Assembly at Newbury on Oct. 15, 1787, saying that he "Humbly Prays that your Honours would Grant him a Gore of Vacant Land . . . also so much of the Town called No. Twenty-five (present Wheelock) as your Honours shall judge reasonable, as Compensation for the loss your Petitioner has Sustained . . ." (Vt. State Papers Vol. V, pp. 388-389)





over. Although the charter bears the same date as the grant, June 14, 1785, it was not issued until Oct. 11, 1788, by the Assembly meeting at Manchester.

In consequence of application by the Honble President Wheelock for the Charter of Incorporation of the Township Granted to Dartmouth College Resolved that the Conditions & Reservations to be entered in the Charter of Incorporation for the Township of Land Granted by the Legislature of this State to the President & Trustees of Dartmouth College and Moors Charity School be as follows viz: that one hundred and Fifty acres of Land be reserved for the use benefit & support of the Ministry of the Gospel in sd. Town forever, one hundred and fifty acres for the use and support of an English school or schools in said Town, on Good Tenable Land as the Situation thereof will admit & that the Secty be & he is hereby directed to make out a Charter of sd. Township by the name of *Santa Maria* & the same be Exempt from public Tax so long as the rents & Profits of sd. Township be appropriated for the purposes for which it was Granted. On further consideration Mr. President altered the name of sd. Township from *Santa Maria* to that of *Wheelock*.

(*Governor and Council Vol. III, p. 168; Vt. State Papers Vol. III, part 3, p. 145*)

In connection with the naming of the town, SANTA MARIA, it is interesting to note that on Nov. 28, 1786 John Wheelock had taken as his bride, Maria Suhm, a daughter of the late Gov. Christian Suhm of St. Thomas, B. W. I.

Maria's mother, after becoming a widow, had married Lucas Van Beverhaupt and had taken her two daughters, Maria and a sister, to live at Beverwyck, Parsippany, N. J. around the middle 1770's. During the Revolutionary War, Maria was very popular with the officers who were entertained at Beverwyck. It is probable that on some such occasion John Wheelock first met Maria, as he was a Lt. Colonel in the Continental Army and on Gen. Gates's staff in 1778.

His first letter to Maria was on May 20, 1786. Many more followed, although hers were less frequent. His letters must have been urgent and persuasive, for in six months they were married.

Maria Suhm was quite wealthy and owned property in the West Indies. John Wheelock asked for a statement of her effects promptly after their marriage. Her wealth was reckoned in "pieces-of-

eight" and, in addition, she was to have two negro "wenches." Some of her funds were used toward the expense of building Dartmouth Hall, which was completed that same year, 1786.

The only child of John and Maria Wheelock, a daughter, was born Feb. 3, 1788. She, too, was named Maria, in honor of her grandmother, Maria Malleville Suhm van Beverhaupt.

(from material collected by Jane W. Dowe May 12, 1955 for Dartmouth College Archives, Baker Library)

With such emphasis on the name, *Maria*, in the Wheelock family it would not seem surprising for them to have wanted it further perpetuated in the name of the township, that was finally chartered to the College when the President's daughter was eight months old.

#### A CERTAIN VACANT TOWNSHIP

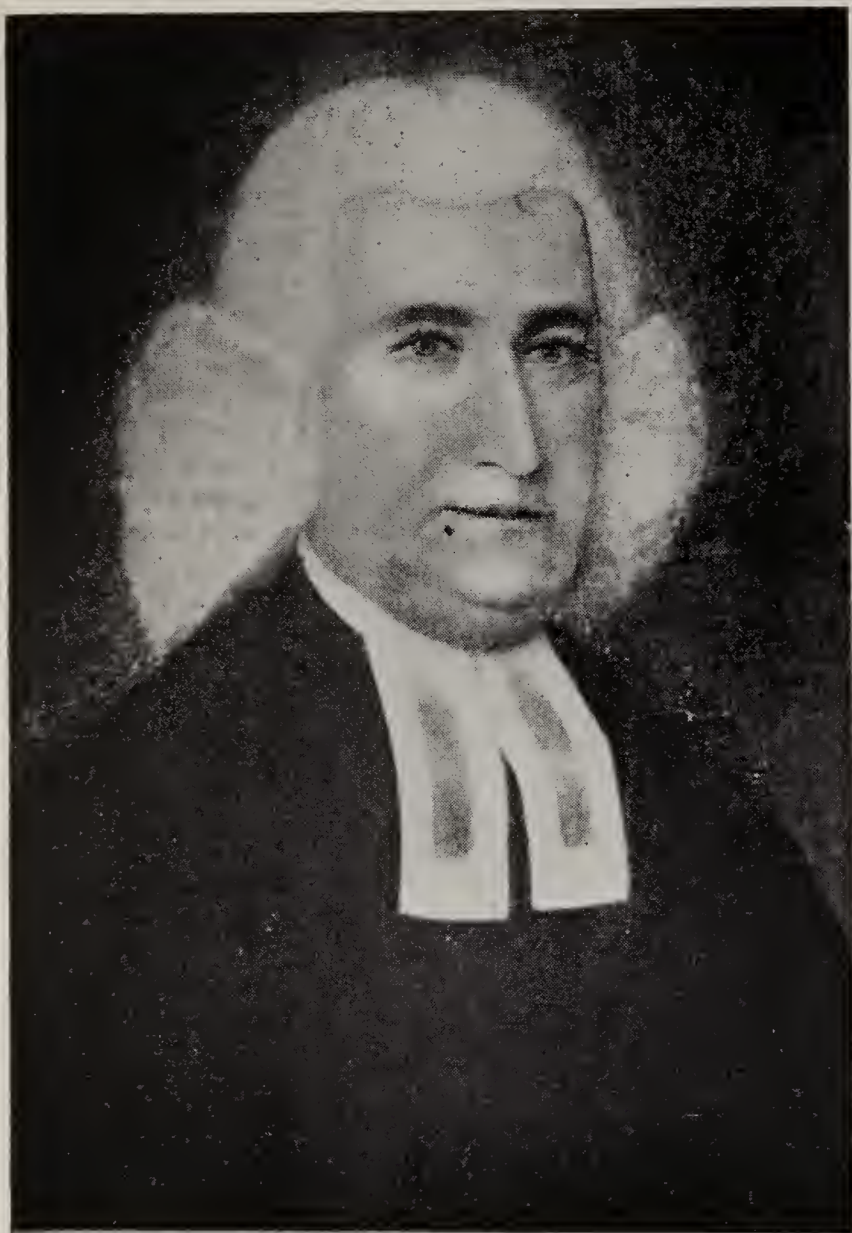
At the March meeting of the Assembly in Bennington in 1787, Dr. William Page of Charlestown, N. H. (and, in 1802, builder of the canal at Bellows Falls, Vt.) had petitioned for "a Certain Vacant Township lying North of and Adjoining to Walden being Six Miles Square . . ." in lieu of his ungranted request of June 20, 1781 for other Vermont lands. Dr. Page had been instrumental in bringing about the first "East Side Union" and had felt "considerably hurt & injured" when the plan was given up. The township he refers to is Wheelock.

(*Vt. State Papers Vol. V, pp. 386 and 387*)

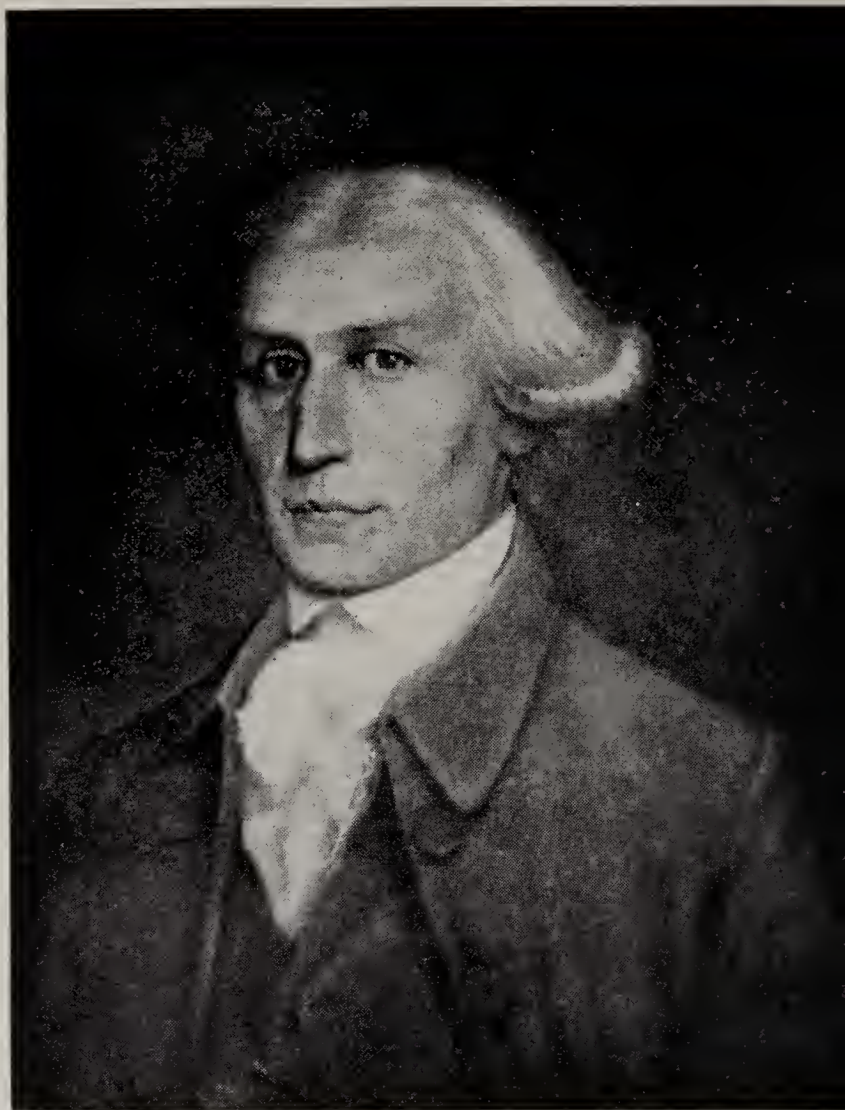
#### GEOGRAPHICAL VAGARIES

Through its earliest years the lottery of names for this popular piece of Vermont is as follows: New Stirling, Albany County, Province of New York; Bamf, Albany County (later called Gloucester County), Province of New York; then, A Certain Vacant Township, Number Twenty-five, Santa Maria and Wheelock, all in Vermont. The Vermont names would have been first in Cumberland County, of which Newbury was the shire town; afterwards in Orange County, of which Chelsea was the shire town; and finally in Caledonia County, of which Danville was the first county seat and, after 1856, St. Johnsbury.





Eleazar Wheelock (1711-1779),  
Founder of Dartmouth College.  
From an old painting.



John Wheelock (1754-1817), Son of Eleazar Wheelock,  
Second President of Dartmouth College.



*A Front View of DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, with the CHAPEL & HALL.*

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE IN 1790



## Chapter III

# The Dartmouth College Story

The beginning of Dartmouth College and the ideas that prompted the Rev. Eleazar Wheelock to found it are so interesting and so closely allied with the town that took his name, that it seems fitting to include a brief story of such in the town's history.

The Rev. Eleazar Wheelock was born in Windham, Conn. June 22, 1711 O. S. and graduated from Yale College as a high honor student in 1729, being one of the early recipients of the Bishop Berkley Prize for the best classical scholarship.

In 1735 he became pastor of the Congregational church in Columbia (Lebanon), Conn. and soon after began tutoring young men for college. In 1743 an Indian woman of the Mohegan tribe applied to him on behalf of her son, who, two years previously, had been converted to Christianity. This student the minister accepted gladly and taught him for a period of three years. But the Indian's health and eyesight beginning to fail him, he decided to give up the idea of a regular college course and turned, instead, to the study of theology. He was later ordained and became the noted preacher, Samson Occum.

This successful work with his first Indian pupil influenced and inspired Wheelock's entire future course. In 1754 he added two more Indian pupils. In 1761 (*Judge Asa Aikens OPINION 1832*) Wheelock had eleven Indian students, and in 1763 there were twelve boys and seven girls from Indian tribes. By 1764, one half the thirty pupils in his school could be counted as English youths preparing to be missionaries to the Indians.

The Rev. Eleazar Wheelock's plan for Indian education gradually developed under these two principles:

First, separation of a sufficient number of Indian boys and girls from their tribes to be trained, clear of all pagan environment, and educated not only in literature, but in industrial art and handicrafts of civilized life, as well as in domestic arts and economy, thus to form a nucleus and basis of civilization upon return to their own people;

And secondly, a joint education of English and Indian youth as missionaries to the tribes, both projects helping and sustaining each other.

Such a plan would require considerable money, Wheelock foresaw, and in 1765 Samson Occum was sent on a special preaching and money-raising trip to England. Charitable funds were collected in England and in Scotland, which later supplied some income for education of Indians, so persuasive a preacher was Occum.

Also, three gentlemen in Lebanon, Conn. aided the school, one of them being Joshua Moor, who is credited with giving two acres of land, with tene-ment, to help the school. His name was later used in connection with Moors Charity School, which appears in much of the litigation over Wheelock, Vermont affairs.

Realizing that getting Indian pupils would always be an uncertainty, the Rev. Mr. Wheelock dreamed of founding a college that would train English youths to serve as missionaries and thus carry his work to the Indians in their tribal homes. This plan was rejected when he appealed to England, the Archbishop of Canterbury objecting on the grounds that the Church of England could not offer support to a Congregational institution over which it would have no control.

The idea appealed, however, to many settlers throughout the country and offers came from as far away as the "west" and Canada to help him start a college. Wheelock felt that the settlers moving into northern New England would soon be in need of a college, and, when, in 1768, Gov. John Wentworth of New Hampshire offered a township on the Connecticut River, Wheelock was delighted. The charter of Dec. 13, 1769 confirming this grant named no specific town and many, on both sides of the river, from Newbury, Vt. and Haverhill, N. H. south, vied with each other in offering themselves as sites for the college.

Wheelock, however, favored Hanover, then called Dresden, and finally persuaded the New Hampshire Legislature to allow him to start his college and school there. He suggested that Wentworth give his name to the new educational venture, but the modest governor suggested the name of Lord Dartmouth, trustee of the English funds, instead.

In August 1770, with only the encouragement of Gov. John Wentworth to support him, Wheelock settled in his "hut in the woods" at Hanover on five hundred of the acres granted in the charter. During the next two months, his pupils followed him on foot.

First, land was cleared on which to build a college building, to be 80 x 32 feet, and a one story house, 32 x 40 feet, for himself and family. The family arrived before this was finished and took refuge in the 18 foot square log hut without glass in its windows. The students slept outside on beds of boughs, sheltered by a roof of boards held up by poles.

The Indian patronage was, for a time, gradually regained from tribes of Canadian Indians, until there were some twenty in attendance. The Revolutionary War later scattered these, however, and for some years there were few Indian pupils in either school or college.

The problems attending the founding of a private college in the woods of New Hampshire were no different from those of running a private tutoring school in Lebanon, Conn. . . . only on a grander scale. The constant need was MONEY. The new venture was accompanied by so many prayers to Legislatures for grants of land, to individuals for gifts, to patrons abroad for donations, that it is a wonder that the president of the school and the college ever had time to teach, as records show he did.

Pleas to the New Hampshire Legislature resulted in the grant of the town of Landaff, N. H. President Eleazar Wheelock is supposed to have spent some \$10,000 laying out the township and encouraging settlers, only to have the grant rescinded, after the settlers cried out to their legislature to be relieved of the pressures and injustices of the College. Later grants of two large tracts of timberland in the northern part of the state, Clarksville and the Second College Grant, provided financial aid to the college, although never enough as Wheelock's plans expanded.

After the Republic of Vermont was set up, the Rev. Eleazar Wheelock appealed to the Vermont Assembly. In 1778, when the first of the Union assemblies of the Connecticut River towns of New Hampshire and Vermont was held, he was on hand to make a petition. Hanover, or Dresden, was one of the sixteen New Hampshire towns represented. With Dartmouth College at that time standing, as it were, in the middle of Vermont, Wheelock pressed

his case and was rewarded with a measure of success.

At the Monday, June 15th, session of the 1778 General Assembly held in Bennington, Vt., the following votes were recorded (*Slade's State Papers, 1823*)

"Voted, to take the petition of Reverend Dct. Wheelock into consideration.

Voted, to take the incorporated university of Dartmouth under the patronage of this State.

Voted, that the Rev. Doct. Eleazar Wheelock be appointed, and commissioned as a justice of the peace of said incorporated society.

Voted, that the Trustees of Dartmouth College have power to choose, or nominate an assistant justice to Rev. Eleazar Wheelock, D.D."

This response showed the goodwill of the General Assembly of Vermont but gave little else to the struggling college. By the time the second "Union" Assembly met in 1781, with 36 New Hampshire towns joining those in Vermont, the founder of Dartmouth College was dead. After 1783, the Union of the Connecticut Towns, a plan first credited to Wheelock, was also dead.

Upon the death of Eleazar Wheelock in 1779, his son, John Wheelock, who had been one of the four first graduates of Dartmouth College, succeeded by his father's will to the presidency of both Dartmouth College and Moors Charity School. He was 25 years old and remained in these offices for 36 years.

Dartmouth College was nearly bankrupt at this time. In an effort to shore up the college and school, the new president soon made a begging trip to England. He was quite successful on behalf of the wilderness ventures, but, on the trip home, the ship on which he was travelling was wrecked off Cape Cod. His chest of money sank to the bottom of the sea, never to be recovered.

It was natural that Pres. John Wheelock should follow his father's methods, when trying to keep the college and school afloat. When the Vermont General Assembly met in Norwich, Vt. in June 1785, he crossed the Connecticut River to make continued appeals for the support of Dartmouth College and Moors Charity School. (*State Papers of Vt. Vol. III, part 3, pp. 70, 138, 141*)

He eloquently stressed the bringing of educational light to the "wilderness" and the "desert," by his father, and the great need for carrying on this work. His personal suasion was such that the Assembly took the following action and passed



AN ACT granting twenty-three thousand acres of Land to the Trustees of Dartmouth College and the President of Moor's Charity School, to and for the use of said College and School forever.

The Legislature having a high sense of the importance of the institution of Dartmouth College, and Moor's Charity School, to mankind at large, and to this commonwealth in particular; its situation and connexions being most favorable to diffuse useful knowledge through the same

*Be it therefore enacted &c* that there be, and hereby is, granted to the Trustees of Dartmouth College, and the President of Moor's Charity School, and to their successors, twenty-three thousand acres of land within this State, to be ascertained and charted upon the conditions hereafter provided in this act; to be to and for the use of said College and School forever

*And be it further enacted* that the surveyor-general for the time being, be and hereby is, directed (as soon as the survey of the State is completed, there being a sufficiency of ungranted lands remaining) to survey in one tract the twenty-three thousand acres, if that quantity of ungranted land, proper for cultivation, can be found in one parcel; otherwise survey the like quantity in different parcels, under the direction, and to the approbation, of the President of said institution

*And be it further enacted* that the Governor and Council of this State for the time being be and hereby are requested to issue a charter of incorporation for the same, when so surveyed, to the Trustees of Dartmouth College and the President of Moor's Charity School, and to their successors, to be to and for the use and benefit of said College and School forever.

(*Slade's State Papers*, p. 497)

#### THE HOVERING TOWNSHIPS

Three years elapsed before the charter was issued, despite repeated requests from Pres. John Wheelock to do away with the delay. Several amendments were being considered, the Assembly said, and it also wished to be sure that all previously granted lands had been chartered in due order, before satisfying the Dartmouth College petitions (*Gov. and Council Vol. III*, p. 168)

In reviewing the anxieties of those three years of delay, President Wheelock later described the situation thus, in *Observation On Facts* Aug. 8, 1807, a memorial to the Vermont Legislature on that date. (*Dartmouth College Trustees Records*)

This memorialist never, then, saw any geographic map or plan of the unlocated tracts. There never had been any correct survey of the

same. Those most acquainted were rather of the opinion, that, after the sixteen hovering townships, already granted, should find a place, there would be no residue: at best it would be on cliff and rocks. Such was the cloud which covered the grant; such the circumstances, which diminished its estimation . . . in fine, it (original grant) provides for an apprehension, that there might be no lands remaining for this after the other grants, already made, should be pitched.

That Pres. John Wheelock was not idle during these anxious years, is evidenced by the opening words of the resolution passed by the Vermont Assembly Oct. 11, 1788, the resolution that finally activated the grant of twenty-three thousand acres.

"In consequence of the application by the Honble President Wheelock for the Charter of Incorporation of the Township Granted to Dartmouth College . . . ." (*Gov. and Council Vol. III*, p. 168)

The resulting charter was dated the same as the grant, June 14, 1785. The final success was attributed by President Wheelock in *Observation on Facts* thus:

By the succeeding benevolence and attention of its friends abroad and by the expenses, trouble, and indefatigable exertions on the side of the Institution, a spot was accommodated, Wheelock was located, surveyed, and assigned, under the sanction of the government and without the least expense to it, the fees and charges of office being all duly paid . . . .

#### THE CHARTER OF WHEELOCK

*The Governor, Council & General Assembly of the Freemen of the State of Vermont*

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME GREETING:

KNOW YE, that whereas Dartmouth College & Moors Charity School, being situated on the East Bank of Connecticut river, have been and still are of important service in diffusing useful Literature among mankind, & thro' this state in particular, & whereas the Honble John Wheelock Esquire our well beloved friend, for & in behalf of the Honorable Trustees of said College, & in behalf of said School, has applied by petition for a grant of a Tract of unappropriated Lands within this State, for himself as president of said College & School, & his successors in office, & for the Trustees of said College & their Successors We have therefore thought it fit for the

due encouragement & for promoting the useful & laudable design of said College & School & for the presents in the Name & the Authority of the freemen of the State bounded unto him, the said John Wheelock as president of sd. School & to the Trustees of sd. College VIZ: BEGINNING at the Southeast Corner of the township of Lyndon, being a birch tree marked Lyndon S. W. Corner Nov. 16, 1786, which is also the Northeasterly corner of Danville & running North  $70^{\circ}$  West in the northerly line of sd. Danville 2 Miles and fifty Chains to the Northwesterly corner thereof, which is a spruce tree marked Danville corner, then North forty-three degrees and 8 minutes West Six Miles & 4 Chains to a little *beach* tree standing in the easterly line of Greensborough, marked Wheelock corner July 17th 1788, then North  $36^{\circ}$  East 3 Miles, 46 Chains & 22 Links, in said easterly line of Greensborough to the northeasterly corner thereof, which is a birch tree marked Greensborough Corner May 29th 1786, Then South fifty-four degrees East five Miles, 55 Chains & 33 Links to a Stake & Stones North  $36^{\circ}$  East from a *beach* tree standing on the North side of a flatt Hill marked Sheffield S. E. Corner July 19th 1788 Wheelock IW, then north  $36^{\circ}$  East two Miles, 68 Chains & 60 Links to a Stake eighteen links Southeast from a Spruce tree on flatt Land marked Wheelock corner 1788 on the Southeast side & Sheffield Corner on the Northwest side, Then South Six Degrees & 15 minutes East one Mile and 54 Chains to a *beach* tree marked Lyndon Corner July 1, 1787 I. A., Billymead corner 1788, being the Northwesterly corner of Lyndon, then South  $20^{\circ}$  West Six Miles in the westerly line of Lyndon to the bounds begun at #

On the following Conditions & Reservations VIZ: that one hundred & fifty Acres of Land be reserved for the use, benefit & suport of the Ministry of the Gospel in sd. Township, or precinct, forever; 150 Acres of Land for the use & support of an English School or Schools in sd. Township, or Precinct, forever to be located as near the center of the Township or precinct on good Tenable Land, as the situation thereof will admit

# Containing the contents of Six Miles square, and that the same be & hereby is incorporated into a Township by the name of WHEELOCK. And the

inhabitants that do and shal after inhabit said Town, or precinct, are declared to be enfranchised & entitled to all the privileges & Immunities that the inhabitants of other settled towns within this State do by Law & and the constitution thereof exercise & enjoy. The sd. Wheelock as president & his successors in Office, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the one moiety of sd. premises as above described solely & exclusively for the use & benefit of sd. School forever, and the sd. Trustees & their Successors in Office TO HAVE & TO HOLD the other moiety sole & exclusively for the use & benefit of sd. DARTMOUTH COLLEGE forever All the privileges & appurtenances thereunto belonging & appertaining, are hereby also granted to sd. PRESIDENT & TRUSTEES for the purposes aforesaid

And WHEREAS the sd. Grant of Land is for a public & important use, it is hereby declared that the Land & tenements in every part of said Township or precinct, shall forever be free & exempt from public Taxes, that is to say so long & while the incomes & profits shall be actually applied by sd. president & Trustees & their successors, to the purposes of sd. College & School as above expressed. In TESTIMONY whereof WE HAVE caused the Seal of this State to be affixed this 14th Day of June in the year of our Lord 1785 & in the ninth year of the independence of this State

Thomas Chittenden

By his Excellency's Command

Joseph Fay, Secy.

The above is the first charter for Wheelock as recorded in State Papers of Vermont Vol. II, pp. 215-216. A second version on pages 217-218 has a little different wording although the meaning is the same. In the second charter Lyndon is written "Lynden"; Billymead appears as "Billy Meads"; and the little "beach" tree in the easterly line of Greensborough has suddenly been transformed into a Little Birch. In the second version the markings on the tree on the "flatt Hil" are made to be T. W. and that on the Lyndon Corner, T. A.

At the close, the year is designated as "the ninth year of our Independence", rather than the specialized "independence of this State" in the original document.



## Chapter IV

# Something More Than Cliffs and Rocks

With the final chartering of his township, actually laid down on the land, Pres. John Wheelock was interested to see whether it was somewhat more than the "cliffs and rocks" that he had feared would be all that remained for him, after other waiting townships had been "pitched."

As he stated in *Observation On Facts*, "By the continuity of the same care, attention, and expense on the part of the College and School, measures were entered upon, and contracts were made for settling and improving the township. The settlement commenced about the year 1789."

Abraham Morrill of Danville, Vt., formerly of Canterbury, N. H., was selected to encourage and supervise the settlement. Abraham Morrill and his brother, Sargent, had been among the first fifty families from New Hampshire to come to Danville in 1785 and early 1786. The brothers had taken an active part in its settlement. At the organizational meeting of Danville, Sargent Morrill had been chosen moderator; Abraham Morrill, town clerk.

### ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT WITH ESQ. MORRILL RESPECTING THE SETTLEMENT OF WHEELOCK

(*Dartmouth College Archives, also recorded in  
Wheelock Town Records Vo. 2, p. 488-89*)

Articles of agreement between John Wheelock, Esqr., President of Moors Charity School and Dartmouth College, and Abraham Morrill, Esqr. of Danville, respecting the Settlement of the Precinct of Wheelock in the State of Vermont the property of sd. School & College . . . the Sd. Abraham Morrill engages to have the sd. Precinct or township all of it well surveyed and Divided into hundred acre lots—he engages to build a proper grist Mill and saw Mill well situated to accomodate the inhabitants of sd. precinct and to have same well completed within one year from the 1st day of next august—he engages to have a good Road through sd. Precinct and in such Direction as will best ac-

comodate the settlements and Communication of the Parts of the same—within sd. term of one year from the first Day of next august—he engages to introduce good industrious Settlers onto Seventy rights in said Precinct or township who shall pay six pounds on each right annually, the first payment to be *mad* in the year 17 ninty-six, sd. Payment on each right to be then only three pounds and so annually thereafter till the year 1803, when payments are to be respectively six pounds as above expressed and so Afterwards—sd. Morrill is to be as attentive as may be that there is no confusion or interference in the arrangements of the *Diference* rights—

2d. Sd. Wheelock as president of Moors School and in behalf of sd. Trustees of Dartmouth College—agrees that sd. Abm. Morrill, Esqr. shall have all that he may obtain of the *sittlers* or that they shall pay as Rent of the various rights that May be due before the first day of January in the year 1797 and also on Conditions sd. Morrill settle all the rights in town so that the whole of sd. rights (the right for the Ministry and school excepted) shall pay rents by the year eighteen hundred and three in this case he shall have the whole of the rents that may be paid for one year on the first day of January 18 and three 1803—and also on Conditions that all rights are so settled as above expressed to pay rent in 1803 he, the sd. Morrill, his heirs or assigns shall have one right containing three hundred acres free from rents and also two rights in addition on his paying the principal for sd. two rights out of sd. rents assigned to him as above—the particular condition of Settlements—are to be attended to by sd. Morrill which accompany this in a letter to him, also the form of a lease, a Duplicate of which he has—

The Preceding consideration which respects the particular agreement between sd. President and trustees and the sd. Abm. Morrill, Esqr. is on the presumption and suposition that sd. Precinct or Township is on an average a Tract of good Cond. the sd. Morrill engages to Make no demand on the President of the school & the

Present, likewise that you send me a formal Power attorney  
 to give them a bond that you or your successors shall give them  
 a deed or lease next time / and that they Deliver the deed in  
 the Town / you may set the Time of Payment within thirty  
 years if that will suite better then to have it run during the  
 Lease / and that the ruff mountains must not be drawed for /  
 I think the Terms will be very good on your Part as there is  
 land as good as that ~~at hand~~ hand that can be had 50 acres  
 to each settler free only for settling and 50 more for 2 /  
 P. acre / I have been at almost 200 Dollars Expense in  
 and time in aloting the town already / and if these settle  
 ments dont go on it will hurt me very much / Please to send  
 by the Carrier what you will do - I expect if those men  
 dont in gage this fall they will turn their mind, some what  
 else as to my fidelity and onestty / I am willing to be under  
 the inspection of Judge Henry and Esq. Whittow two as  
 onest men calid as we have in the County. For your  
 Compliance will very much oblige your Humblest  
 Abraham Morrill

Dea. John Wheelock Esq.

John Wheelock Esq.

ABRAHAM MORRILL'S LETTER TO HON. JOHN WHEELOCK  
 (Dartmouth College Archives, Hanover, N. H.)

trustees of the College for any trouble and ex-  
 penses in Surveying the sd. tract or township or  
 settling the Same besides what is contained  
 within the above moments.

Hanover, Octobr 27th  
 1788

J. Wheelock  
 Abraham Morrill

#### THE DARK AND SWAMPY LAND

Pres. John Wheelock eagerly awaited his agent's  
 first report on the condition of the land, lest it nulli-  
 fy the above agreement. With the financial condi-  
 tion of the college and school ever "pressing," the

very life of these institutions seemed to depend on  
 the success of the Vermont land grant and future  
 rents from the settlers. He could not have been too  
 pleased with the letter he received, for Morrill's first  
 look at Wheelock had not impressed him very favor-  
 ably.

John Wheelock, Esq.

Prefident of Dartmoth Colege, Newhampshire  
 Hon'd sir / the surveyor has Laid out upward  
 of 100 lots in the Township of Wheelock / I  
 would inform you that upon vewing the  
 Town, find that it is not so good as was ex-



pected that there is some Mountains in the midle and towards the westerly part of sd. town and that a considerable of the other part is Dark and swampy land and unfit for settlements that it is expected that that part of it is Drawed will be almost, if not quit all, exceeding Poor land / and that a number of the most reputable men that thought of settling there are almost discouraged on a count of the land not being so good as they expected and and will except the following terms can be Complied with viz: that when they paid the Principle as was mentioned in the leafe, a Duplicate of which you gave me, that the land shall then be free from any tax / and that if they Dont go on it will Discourage the others and so put a stop to the buying at Present / likewise that you give me a formal Power atorney to give them a bond that you, or your successors, shal give them a deed or leafe next time / & that they Deliver the rent in Town / you may set the Time of Payment within ninty years, if that will sute bitter then to have it run during the Leafe / and that the ruff mountain must not be drawed for / I think the terms will be very good on your Part as there is land, as good as that and as handy, that can be had 50 acres to each settler free only for settling and 50 mor for 2s. per acre / I have been at almost 200 Dollars expense and time in aloting the town already and if these settlers dont go on it will hurt me very much / Please to send by the Bearer what you will Do. I expect if those men Dont engage this fall, they will turn their minds somewhere els / as to my fidelity and honesty I am willing to be under the infpection of Judge Hervy and Esq. Whitelaw, two as onest men as we have in the County / Sir, Your Compliance will very much oblige

Your Humble svt.

Nov. 3rd 1788

Abraham Morrill

(‘Judge Hervey’ would refer to Col. Alexander Harvey, agent for the Scottish United Company of Farmers, who settled in Barnet; while James Whitelaw, agent for the Scots-American Company of farmers, settled in Ryegate and later became the second Surveyor General of Vermont, succeeding Ira Allen in that office. As Abraham Morrill states, it would have been hard to find two more responsible character witnesses on his behalf.)

The letter from his agent, Morrill, somewhat influenced Wheelock’s plans for the allotment of the new lands, especially as regarded the “ruff mountain” portion. In *Observation on Facts* Wheelock recalls:

The allotments of the land were in 100 acres, 300 to the right; and they were stated in three

divisions: the first consisted of two lots to a right, considered as the most valuable, amounting to near two thirds of the township, and which were devoted to the choice of the settlers; 2d. to these two lots, respectively, was attached one lot to be drawn

3d. the remainder, being little more than 2,000 acres, estimated as in general of poor quality and least valuable, lying on the mountain and remoter skirts of the town, was left as improper for occupancy. Thus, the last only remaining unconveyed by the College and School, the rest of the township, comprehending almost the whole and of the best quality, has been disposed of to settlers on long leases . . . .

The lots were charged with the first rent to be paid in January 1796; half payments to be made annually for seven years; accordingly, the full payments did not begin till the year 1803. They amount only to the sum, on each 100 acres, of six dollars and sixty-seven cents. In addition to these terms, the Institution expended about three thousand dollars chiefly for the purpose of introducing the early settlers and that they might be accommodated with mills, roads, and other conveniences.

The first lease recorded in the Town of Wheelock records, Sept. 10, 1794, was to John Curtis “for one half the 4th & one half of the 48th right in Lots No. 54 & No. 12, with one half of 2 one hundred acre lots.” Both lots appear on the original plat bearing the letter “C”, signifying that rents would be claimed by the College.

“Provision was made in all the leases executed between 1794 and 1830 that the lessees could pay up the capital and receive a deed of the land free from rent thereafter. No such provision was included in the leases after 1830,” wrote Judge W. H. Taylor. However, the college and school continued to take capital when offered, in lieu of rent, provided the amount was sufficient to bring in, when invested, the customary 6 per cent. Land so paid for was eventually deeded to the settler on a quit claim deed. This was called paying on the Capital, but known locally as “paying up the crowns,” as the land was valued at one crown per acre. Annual rental was fixed at \$6.67 per lot.

#### ONLY ONE MILL OR AN EAR OF CORN

Many settlers took advantage of the provision to buy up their lands. The quitclaim deeds they received from the college and school provided for releasing the landholder from further payment of rent, except for one mill, or an ear of corn, on each lot,

I know All men by these presents that I Moses Wells of Wheelock in the County of Orange and State of Vermont am holden and Stand firmly bound unto the Prefident of Dartmouth College in Hanover in the County of Grafton and State of Newhampshire in the penal sum of fifty pounds lawfull money to the payment of which sum well and truly to be made I bind myself my heirs executors administrators firmly by these presents Sealed with my Seal this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September D 1794

The Condition of this Obligation is such that if the above named Moses Wells shall by the first day of January 1796 enter upon a certain tract of Land in Wheelock in the County of Orange and State of Vermont which was Leased to the said Moses by the said Prefident of and shall clear and put under good improvement <sup>eight</sup> acres of the premises and also shall build thereon a good log or framed House at least 16 feet square and a framed barn at least 20 feet square by said first day of January 1796 then this Obligation to be void otherwise to be and remain in full force and virtue -

Signed sealed and Delivered in presence of -

Abraham Morrill

Moses Wells

#### BOND OF MOSES WELLS

(Dartmouth College Archives, Baker Library, Hanover, N. H.)

"if demanded on the premises the first day of January each year."

In 1851 an enabling act by the Vermont Legislature allowed the Trustees of Dartmouth College and Moor's Charity School to sell land outright to tenants wishing to buy. Only a small amount of land in Wheelock is held under lease today.

#### THE BOND OF MOSES WELLS

The following shows one method of keeping settlers interested and active in the new township:

Know All men by these presents that I Moses

Wells of Wheelock in the County of Orange and State of Vermont am holden and Stand firmly bound unto the Prefident of Dartmouth College in Hanover in the County of Grafton and State of Newhampshire in the . . . Sum of fifty pounds lawfull money to the payment of which sum well and truly to be made I bind myself, my heirs, executors, administrators firmly by these presents Sealed with my Seal this 10th day of September A. D. 1794. The Condition of this Obligation is such that if the above named Moses Wells Shal by the first day of January 1796 enter upon a certain tract of Land in Wheelock in the County of Orange and



State of Vermont which was Leafed to said Moses by the said Prefedent and shal Clear and put under good improvement eight acres of the premifes and shall build thereon a good log or framed House at least 16 feet square and a barn at least 20 feet square by said first day of January 1796 then this obligation to be void, otherwise to be and remain in full force and vertu.

Moses Wells

Signed, sealed and Delivered in the Presence of Abraham Morrill

In the interest of good settlement, Abraham Morrill evidently kept his fears about the "Dark and swampy land" to himself. He went about his business with characteristic energy, seeing to the building of grist mills and saw mills, laying out the roads, and generally encouraging settlers. Progress in settlement went forward. The census of 1790 lists 32 settlers. On March 12, 1792 he warned the first town meeting.

#### MUD TIME

By 1794 there were enough people in Wheelock to be getting "very uneasy," as Abraham Morrill wrote to Hon. John Wheelock:

Honored & Dear Sir

I caled on Col. Hervey & he told me he had not rec'd your letter. I inquired of him Respecting your land in Wheelock he informed me he had not Paid the tax but that he would See to it Emeadiately. Respecting the arears of Wheelock the People in General are very uneasy they want their conveyances as Soon as Pofsabel. I wish, Sir, that you coud make it convenient to have me come as soon as the ways are a little more Settled to have the Conveyances Signed. You may send by the Bearer, Esq. Leavenworth, when it will sute you to attend upon the businefs. There is upwards of forty families in the Town. Some of which have Done considerable Labour and have no title to their Land. Pray, Sir, Consider of the Matter and Send an answer. it would sute me to Come the first of May.

In the meantime I remain Your Most obedient and Very Humble Servant

Abraham Morrill

Wheelock March 25, 1794

Esq. Wheelock

Received May 19th 1794

(Dartmouth College Archives)

(Esq. Leavenworth referred to in the letter was Col. Jesse Leavenworth, the son of Rev. Mark Leavenworth, a chaplain in the French and Indian Wars. Jesse was born in Waterbury, Conn. Nov. 22, 1740

and accompanied his father on an expedition to Canada as a Lieutenant. He married Catherine Frisbie, widow of Capt. Culpepper Frisbie. In February 1767 he removed to New Haven, Conn., where he engaged in commercial affairs. On the death of his first wife, he married Eunice Sperry. He was Lieutenant in a crack military company of which Benedict Arnold was Captain. On receiving the news of Lexington, Arnold immediately called out his company and marched to Cambridge, Leavenworth going with them. He later attained the rank of Captain. Shortly after the close of the war, he became estranged from his wife, and taking the younger children, came to Danville, Vt. He was one of the proprietors of Danville and of Cabot. He settled on the Hazen Road where it crosses Danville and built mills on the falls at West Danville. [Col. Alexander Harvey wrote in his Diary that he bought wheat of Leavenworth, *VHS Publications, Montpelier.*] He was active in town affairs, representing Danville in 1789, 1791, 1792 and 1798. He later moved to Sacketts Harbor, N. Y., where his son Gen. Henry Leavenworth was stationed. He died there Dec. 12, 1824. His son, Jesse Leavenworth, Jr. settled in Wheelock and kept tavern near the mills at South Wheelock.

Col. Jesse Leavenworth achieved distinction as the one who finally purchased the "personal indenture" of Matthew Lyon from a party in Litchfield, Conn., giving a yoke of steers in trade. This led to Lyon's favorite oath when angry, "by the bulls that redeemed me."

Another incident in the life of Col. Leavenworth throws light on the old custom of imprisonment for debt. In 1808 he petitioned the Legislature for an act to free his body from arrest during his life. Later in the session "An Act freeing the person of Jesse Leavenworth from arrest and imprisonment for the term of his natural life" was sent to the Governor and Council. It was finally passed for a period of seven years, "as he had suffered imprisonment for debt and was destitute."—*From an article by O. D. M. for the Vermont Union-Journal*)

#### A FEW DEMANDS

The doubts that had beset Abraham Morrill when he had first looked over the Wheelock lands—that the rents he was to receive from the settlers would never cover his expenses—grew more certain as years passed. By 1796 he was led to make a few

"demands" on the President of the school and the trustees of the College, his signature to the original agreement notwithstanding. He wrote, "all that he may obtain from the *sittlers* or that they shall pay as rent of various rights that May be due before the first day of January in the year 1797" would be slight recompence and never cover his continuing expenses in settling the township.

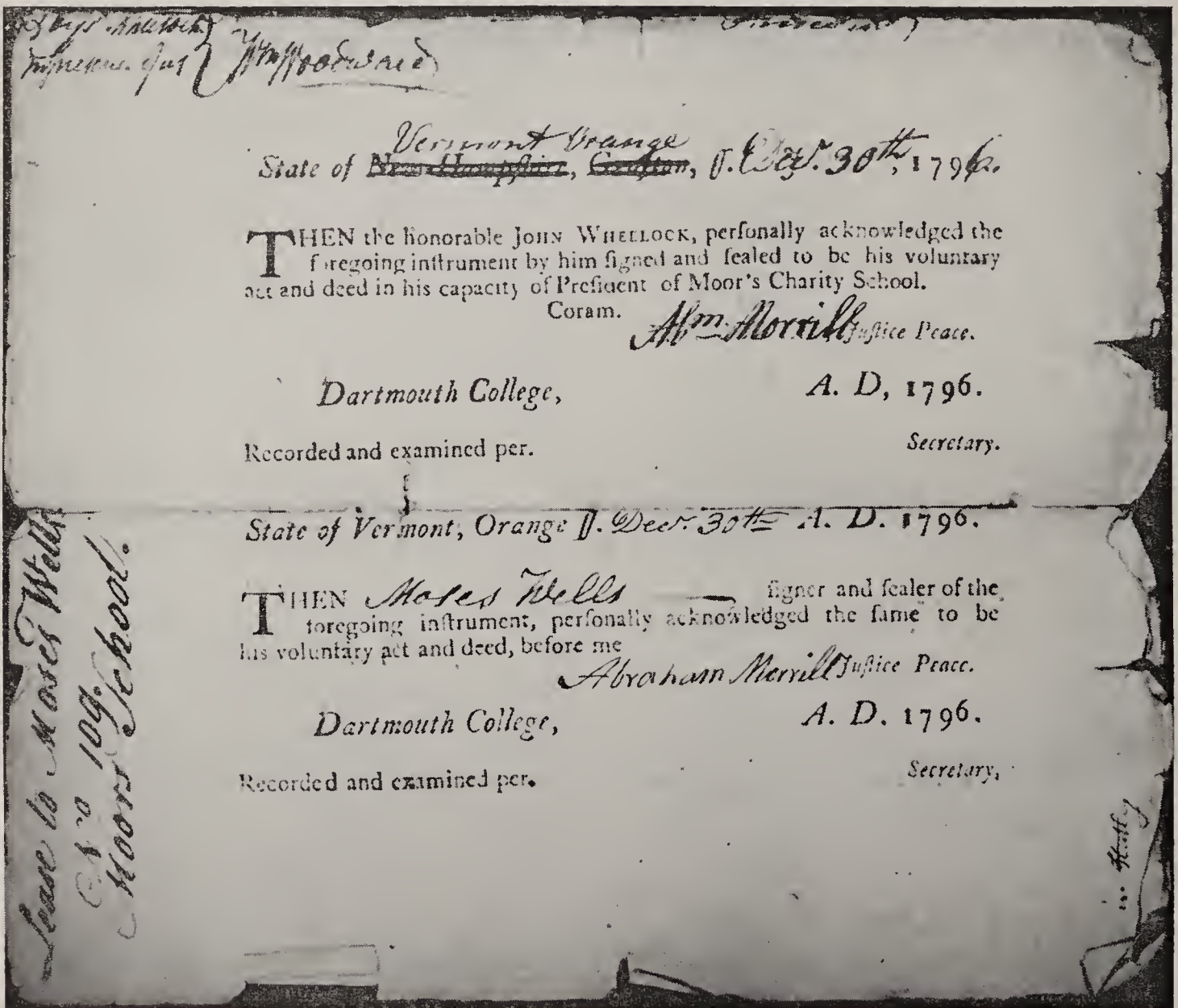
(Dartmouth College Trustees Records)

On Feb. 6, 1796 Morrill received from Pres. John Wheelock a panacea for his ills, but he had to pay for it annually on January 1st.

#### ONE EAR OF INDIAN CORN

. . . in consideration of the service and expense of said Morrill in surveying and allotting the township of Wheelock . . . and of cutting and making roads and bridges and of procuring the settlement of said Town . . . to the amount of sixty-four families and of about thirty others

who have already begun to make improvements, and in consideration that the said Morrill has been at the trouble and expence of making the contracts and has taken on himself and compleated at my request the whole business of leasing the same thus far—And in consideration of his having built a saw and grist mill . . . and in consideration of other services . . . and of the rents and services hereinafter mentioned . . . by the presents doth demise, grant . . . to said Morrill . . . heirs and assigns for and during the term of 999 years from the date hereof, about nine hundred acres of land in said town . . . being the whole of lots numbered 5, 6, 44, also lots numbered 185 and 186, also the gore numbered 60 containing all the land . . . lying northerly of lots numbered 90 and 61, also the whole gore lying northerly of lots numbered 91 and 121, also all the gore lying northerly of lots 21 and 22, also lot numbered 28 in said Wheelock to be the premises more or less . . . on the condition said Morrill shall yield and pay . . . on the first day of January next one ear



LEASE FROM MOORS SCHOOL TO MOSES WELLS  
(Mathewson Papers, V. II. S., Montpelier, Vt.)



of Indian Corn and one ear of Indian Corn annually thereafter . . .

In the presence of us     Abraham Morrill L. S.  
B. Woodward

D. Dana                     John Wheelock

Dartmouth College July 1, 1796

recorded

President Wheelock informed the college trustees that he had assigned definite lots of land to Morrill and they recorded the matter at their meeting of Feb. 15, 1797, noting that Morrill had already received the President's order for the "whole of the rents to January last." Also,

. . . that said Morrill, by his agency, hath become involved in debt and is embarrassed . . . and in order to relieve said Morrill from his embarrassments . . . it will be expedient, in lieu of

the residue of the compensation which said Morrill is, by said contract, entitled to receive out of the rent which will become due in January of the year eighteen hundred & three, that he receive the residue out of the rents which will come due in January next . . . on said Morrill's making usual discount for anticipation of payment . . .

*(Dartmouth College Trustees Records)*

These six hundred acres of free land just given to Morrill were considered "part of the compensation . . . which by the original contract was to be taken out of the rents which will become due in 1803."

Land was a cheap commodity . . . but money, that was something else. If Abraham Morrill was going to get his pay six years early, he'd have to take a discount.

# Chapter V

## Clouds

*There is no more necessary mark of the free man than just this: that he is worthy to raise issues . . . Bonaro W. Overstreet*

The cloud that Pres. John Wheelock had described as hanging over the grant of a township to the Trustees of Dartmouth College and President of Moors Charity School may well have been a prophetic, as well as a symbolic, vision.

*(Observation On Facts, Dartmouth College Records)*

Certainly, the threatening elements of storm grew with the years and the weaker of the two institutions, the School, was usually the victim. Its legality, and hence that of the entire charter, was often in question.

After some ten years of settlement in Wheelock, "in the autumn of 1799 new anxieties arose in regard to the township. The tenure of lands enjoyed by the inhabitants, under perpetual lease, was calculated to breed discontent, however unreasonable," wrote Frederick Chase. *(History of Dartmouth College, p. 617.)*

At the October 1799 meeting of the Assembly in Windsor, there was presented the "Petition of Elisha Burton, Israel Smith, Zebina Curtis and Elisha Stevens, stating that the grant by the General Assembly of this State in 1785 of 23,040 acres of what is now known as Wheelock, one half of which was granted for the use & benefit of Moors School, which did not at the time of said grant, or any other time, exist, nor hath any person, and persons, whatever power to act for Moor's, therefore that charter is void, and the land is now the property of the State, the said petitioners and their associates to the number of 32 petition for the land aforesaid." This petition was read by the Governor and Council and referred to committee Oct. 18, 1799. *(Governor and Council Vol. IV, pp. 229-230)*

This would seem to have been an intent to establish a test case by the well-known land speculators mentioned in the petition. It reflected the growing distrust of Pres. John Wheelock and the Wheelock "set" in Hanover, in the governmental circles in New Hampshire, and in the Scottish headquarters of the Society for Christian Teaching in

Foreign Parts, which supplied charitable funds for Moor's Indian School.

The chief accusations leveled against Pres. Wheelock centered more, at first, around his conduct as President of Moors Charity School, to which position he had succeeded by the will of his father. His foes claimed that he had neither charity nor Indian pupils in the School and that he had appropriated to his own use both the Scotch funds and the Wheelock town rents. Whatever the merits of the case, litigation and dissention were rife, growing more intense each year, until "in 1806 new agitation took place in Wheelock in the matter of roads in the township which, touching the old sore of tax exemption, and falling in with the spirit of hostility still about . . . came to a head . . . after a year or two of discussion." *(History of Dartmouth College, Chase p. 620)*

### WHEELOCK PETITIONS FOR A LAND TAX

Although it is claimed that the vote for the petition was obtained by trickery, or fraud, and that many of the Wheelock settlers opposed it, *(History of Dartmouth College, Chase p. 620)* the town applied to the Assembly meeting at Middlebury Oct. 15, 1806. The complaint stated, "by reason of the thinness of the settlement and neglect of the landlords, the maintainance of the roads is a great hardship to the inhabitants." The prayer was for a land tax to reach non-resident owners in order that the inhabitants might thus enjoy all the immunities and privileges of other incorporated towns, as guaranteed by the charter.

Over seventy of the inhabitants of Wheelock, however, allowed their names to appear on a list of "persons signing a remonstrance against the proceedings of the town meeting in Wheelock of Sept. 1806 concerning a land tax":

Ezra Carter  
John Curtis  
Ephraim Chamberlin  
Daniel Hoyt  
Nathan Smith  
Samuel Weeks

Gideon Leavitt  
Edward Gilman  
David Worthen  
Nathaniel Hayward  
James Thompson  
Edward Fifield



Obediah French  
 Nathaniel Brown  
 John Folsom  
 Perkins Dow  
 Thomas Miles  
 James Sherburn  
 John Heath  
 John Woodman  
 Andrew Ledden  
 Nehemiah Phillips  
 Benjamin Tilton  
 Timothy Tilton  
 Shurborn Tilton  
 Moses Melvin  
 Aaron Melvin  
 Daniel Tilton  
 Nathaniel Glines  
 Jonathan Tilton  
 Samuel Hutchins  
 William Fuller  
 Joseph Harris  
 Dennit (?) Gilman  
 Adam Cummings  
 John Allen  
 Elijah Willard  
 John Wright  
 Samuel Hemmingway  
 Oliver A. Willard  
 Anthony Rawlings  
 Thomas Hoyt  
 Samuel Hoyt  
 Walter Hoyt

David Dow  
 Benjamin Heath  
 Samuel Fifield  
 Bartholemew Gould  
 Ephraim Niles  
 Robert Brown  
 John Elkins  
 Joshua Weeks  
 Ward Bradley  
 Thomas Haines  
 Ebenezer Bickford  
 Levi Bickford  
 James Sherburn, Jr.  
 Ephraim Niles, Jr.  
 Ebenezer Bickford, Jr.  
 Israel Banks  
 I. M. Smith  
 Zebediah Barber  
 Jacob Elkins  
 Jonathan Taylor  
 Daniel Bickford  
 John Love  
 David Moon  
 Samuel Brown  
 Samuel Allen  
 Joseph Miles  
 Joseph Lane  
 Jeremiah Hidden  
 Barnard Hoyt  
 Jason Niles  
 Joseph Chesley  
 Elisha Sanborn

(*Dartmouth College Archives 806-502*)

The committee of the Assembly appointed to report on this petition said, on October 20, that the facts were true but that the prayer ought not to be granted since the charter conferred exemption from all public taxes. (*Chase, p. 624*) As a result, on October 22, the General Assembly passed a resolution "that a committee of five, to join a committee from the Council, be appointed to inquire into the validity of the Charter of the Township of Wheelock and make report."

(*Governor and Council Vol. V p. 108*)

#### OBSERVATION ON FACTS

When the Assembly was meeting at Windsor in August of 1807, it received a visitor, Pres. John Wheelock, who took the occasion to present a memorial entitled, *Observation on Facts*.

After reviewing the past, from the granting of the land through the early years of settlement in Wheelock, the Hon. John Wheelock continued: "Need we appeal to the worthy citizens of that town? They well know that the Trustees and President have been indulgent in regard to arrearages in many instances, which have been and are due; that they have never taken advantage of individuals when it has often been in their power; and that their conduct has been marked with moderation and fore-

bearance towards the poor. Had the inhabitants given information, and expressed their wishes about roads, the Institution would have done all in their power; and no doubt have now, and will have, the same disposition.

"Why then, under the circumstances, without making the least communication, did the freemen of that town, last fall, vote to apply to the Legislature? In reply it was said by many who were present at the meeting that the number who acted was small; that matters were not understood; and it appears that afterward a great majority expressed themselves fully against the application . . . ."

(*Dartmouth College Records*)

The note of haughtiness that crept into President Wheelock's speech must have irritated the freemen of Wheelock, as it was beginning to irritate those associated with him at Hanover. The phrase, "forebearance and moderation towards the poor" must have set ill with men who considered themselves "able and courageous freemen, worthy to raise issues," even as said of their contemporaries, the Revolutionary heroes of Boston. (*Inscription on tablet in Old South Church, Boston*)

#### THE ASSEMBLY REACTS

In the fall of 1807 the Assembly met at Woodstock and the Governor and Council received a bill from the House, being, "an act directing a Suit to be brought for the purpose of ascertaining the Validity of the Charter of Wheelock." When the Governor and Council had read the bill, "it resolved to concur with the House in passing the Same" as of Nov. 7, 1807. (*Governor and Council Vol. V p. 179*)

#### THE WHEELOCK WRIT

This lengthy and accusing document was dated Aug. 4, 1808 at Danville, the shire town of Caledonia County at that time. A full page of *Spooner's Vermont Journal* was devoted to the complete statement, including a history of the founding of Dartmouth College. Alden Spooner of Windsor, as Printer of the Laws of the Union, gave the writ the full treatment in the Monday, Oct. 24, 1808 issue. Among other items, the writ claimed that John Wheelock had wrongly appropriated to himself the Wheelock rents due the College . . . also that the Vermont charter was falsely obtained as there had been no Moors Charity School in existence and that



Handwritten text in a highly decorative, calligraphic script, likely a historical manuscript. The text is written in a single column and appears to be a list or a series of entries, possibly related to a calendar or a record of events. The script is characterized by elaborate flourishes and a dense, flowing arrangement of letters.

WINDSOR: PUBLISHED BY ALDEN SPOONER, PRINTER OF THE LAWS OF THE UNION.

VOLUME XXVI.]

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1808.

NUMBER 1318.

STATE OF VERMONT....Caledonia County ss.  
 I, the Sheriff of the County of Windsor, his  
 deputy or the Sheriff of the County of Or-  
 ange or his deputy or either of the Con-  
 stables of the town of Norwich in said  
 County of Windsor—GREETING.

WHEREAS heretofore, to wit, at the session of the Legislature of the State of Vermont, holden at Norwich in said State in June in the year of our Lord Christ, 1785, John Wheelock, Esq. of Hanover, in the County of Grafton, and State of New-Hampshire, and President of Dartmouth College, situate in Hanover aforesaid, did as well in behalf of himself and the Trustees of said College, as in behalf of a supposed school, called Moor's charity school, present his petition to said Legislature, therein among other things, representing that said Moor's charity school was incorporated with said college as a distinct and separate branch of said institution, and known as a body corporate and politic in law, and dedicated solely to charity, for the purposes of educating poor white scholars and Indian youth, to prepare them to go among the Indian savages bordering upon the western frontier of the United States, to civilize and christianize those savages, and that the President of said College was by virtue of his said office also for the time being president of said school. And by further representing to the members of the said Legislature the great public benefits that would result to the said State of Vermont from said College by diffusing scientific knowledge among its citizens, and the still greater public benefits which would result to said State from said charity school on account of its contiguity to said State, and its furnishing at all times a free school for the education of its poor youth of promising genius. And still further the great public benefits that would be derived to the United States from said school by civilizing and christianizing the savages upon our western borders and frontiers. He the said John Wheelock, Esq. did obtain a grant of a township of land, by the name of Wheelock, lying and being in the said county of Caledonia. One moiety thereof to the said Trustees of Dart-

educate as aforesaid, more than ten English youths, who also received their several degrees, and were admitted, licensed, and ordained to preach, and out of the funds aforesaid, during the time aforesaid, did from time to time, send and support said youths, educated as aforesaid as missionary priests, school masters and instructors among the Indians, to civilize and christianize the said Indians, according to the avowed object of said school, and the end and design of its numerous patrons, by means whereof said school became of great respect, and attracted the notice not only of several charitable societies in different parts of Europe, and diverse noble lords and earls of England, who became its benefactors, but also that of his majesty King George the third, who in the year of our Lord Christ, 1796, in consideration of the important object of said school, its great public utility in civilizing and christianizing the savages, and its affording a free school for the education of poor white youths, and in consideration that the Right Honorable William Earle of Dartmouth was one of its principal benefactors, and the better to enable the said Eleazer Wheelock and the numerous patrons of said school to carry on said laudable purpose upon a larger scale and to greater advantage, to place the funds of said school in the hands of Trustees who should be known as a body corporate and politic in law, and to make said school perpetual, did grant to the said Eleazer Wheelock and others therein named his Royal Charter, wherein and thereby incorporating said school into a College by the name of Dartmouth College, and therein and thereby ordaining constituting and appointing the said Eleazer Wheelock, President of said College, and making the said President with the officers and professors of said College, and others therein named and their successors in office, for the time being, a board of trust for said College, and constituting the same a body corporate and politic in law, with a perpetual succession, and enabling them to sue and be sued by the name of the Trustees of Dartmouth College, and therein and thereby granting ample privileges and making ample provision for the education and instruction of youth of the Indian tribes, in reading, writing and all parts of learning, which should appear necessary and expedient for civilizing

adequate to the purposes of said College. And the said Eleazer Wheelock having procured and established funds as aforesaid, for the sole and only purpose aforesaid, and fully adequate to the purpose aforesaid, and which had they been applied with the same faithfulness and assiduity with which they were applied by the said Eleazer Wheelock during his lifetime, to the purposes intended by said donations, gifts and grants, would before this time have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars annually by the United States, which is now expended by the Government in keeping up a friendly intercourse and maintaining peace with said Indian tribes.— And the said Eleazer Wheelock being vested with the power of nominating and appointing his successor in the office of President as aforesaid, did in his lifetime nominate and appoint the said John Wheelock, Esq. to that office, and on the death of the said Eleazer Wheelock, to wit, in or about the year of our Lord Christ, 1780, the said John Wheelock Esq. did succeed to said office, did accept the same, and did take upon himself the charge, care, management and direction of said College as President thereof, and continuing President thereof, and continuing President as aforesaid, and by representing to said Legislature of Vermont and the members thereof, that said College was still continued and supported upon the original plan and design of said College as aforesaid, and the funds thereof applied to said object pursuant to the original meaning and intent of its donors, patrons and benefactors as aforesaid, and that said Moore's Charity School was incorporated with said College as a branch thereof as aforesaid, he the said John Wheelock did obtain said grant and charter of the said township of Wheelock as aforesaid, the said grant and charter of said township being made and given upon the sole consideration and implied condition, that the funds arising from said lands contained in said grant and charter should forever be applied to the support of said College and School, as a free and charitable institution, according to the intent and design upon which said College was founded as aforesaid, and upon the consideration and firm belief that the said Charity School then had a legal corporate existence, by which the said John Wheelock and others who should receive the proceeds from said lands could be governed.

Charity School incorporated with said college, as was by the said John Wheelock, esq. represented, but the same said school was merged, swallowed up and turned into said Dartmouth college, as aforesaid, for the sole purposes aforesaid; and the said John Wheelock, has ever since the grant and charter of said Wheelock as aforesaid, taken and received the rents and profits of one moiety of said township of Wheelock, to himself, without account to any one; by means of all which premises as before set forth, the said people of Vermont do allege that the charter of said Wheelock was obtained by fraud, that the consideration upon which said township was granted; and said charter given has wholly failed, and the conditions thereof have been and wholly are broken, and the said grant and charter have and are become forfeit, and the lands contained in said township ought of right to revert to said state of Vermont, and for the obtaining a legal and judicial decision and declaration of said forfeiture and for costs, the said people of Vermont do bring this suit. And this honorable court being willing that justice should be done in the premises—therefore, *By the authority of the state of Vermont*, you are hereby commanded to make known to the honorable the said trustees of Dartmouth college, and to the honorable the said John Wheelock, esq. of Hanover, in the county of Grafton and state of New-Hampshire, president of said college, and filing himself president of Moore's charity school, that they be before the honorable supreme court of judicature, next to be holden at Danville, within and for the county of Caledonia and state of Vermont, on the third Tuesday next following the fourth Tuesday of August inst. then and there to answer unto the said people of Vermont, and shew cause (if any they have) why the grant and charter of the said township of Wheelock, in the said county of Caledonia, should not be adjudged and declared forfeited either in whole or in relation to that moiety thereof which was granted to the said John Wheelock, esq. as president to Moore's charity school, for the use of said school.

Hereof fail not, but legal service and due re-  
turn make, according to law.

Dated at Danville, this fourth day of August, A. D. one thousand eight hundred & eighty-  
ELKANAH PHELPS,



"it was, in fact, merged, swallowed up, and turned into sd. Dartmouth College." (*Frederick Chase Collection, Dartmouth College Archives*)

The writ served as another in a long chain of occasions for a visit to the Vermont Assembly by President Wheelock. That autumn the Assembly was sitting at Montpelier and on Oct. 19, 1808 was recorded the visit of "John Wheelock and Wm. H. Woodward, agents of the Trustees of Dartmouth College and Moors Charity School, relative to a suit instituted in the name of the State to repeal the Charter of Wheelock." (*Governor and Council Vol. V, pp. 201-202*)

#### THE CLOUD BEGINS TO CLEAR

On Nov. 5, 1808 a bill was passed in the House, and concurred to by the Governor and Council, and thence passed into law, being, "An act confirming the grant of the Township of Wheelock to the Trustees of Dartmouth College and the president of Moors Charity School." (*Governor and Council Vol. V, p. 224*)

And on Nov. 8, 1808 there was passed, "an act to repeal an act directing a suit for the purpose of ascertaining the Validity of the Charter of Wheelock October 1807." (*Governor and Council Vol. V p. 228*)

During his October visit to the Assembly, President Wheelock had been offered the suggestion that, in return for giving up the original charter, the State would issue another. The new one would provide that any funds from the Wheelock rents, not used up by Moors Charity School, could be applied to Dartmouth College. Wheelock refused, preferring to retain the original charter. This decision caused a later Vermont Legislature to turn a deaf ear to pleas along the same line, when made by Pres. Nathan Lord. (*Chase's History of Dartmouth College*)

#### MOORS CHARITY SCHOOL

##### *Where the cloud rested*

As evidence of the functioning existence of this school at Hanover during the early years, the historian of Dartmouth College presents these statistics: (*p. 633*) In 1780 there were 30 scholars; in 1794 there were 80 scholars; in 1813, only 44; and in 1814, 61, of whom 17 were charity scholars carried on the Moors School share of the Wheelock rents. "After the Wheelock lands began to be productive,

the property of Moors School was in no wise dependent on the whims of the Scotch Society." (*p. 634*)

"All current expenses of keeping up the 'academy,' including building in 1791, salary of the master at L 56 per year, board in the President's family at 12 shillings a week, had been paid out of the receipts from the Vermont grant. On recommendation of a committee in 1805, \$200 per year, in addition to his College salary, were thereafter charged by the President against the Vermont funds for his personal services in relation to the School. This arrangement continued in force for him and his successors until 1865." (*Chase, p. 619*)

It is recorded elsewhere in the Dartmouth College History, that, after the Wheelock Suit and its attending legislation, John Wheelock redoubled his efforts to obtain pupils, especially Indians, for Moor's School. In later years greater endeavor was made to keep separate the rent monies and all financial accounts of the school and college. Even after his removal in 1815 from the presidency of the college, Wheelock claimed the presidency of the school and requested the latter's share of the Wheelock rents to be paid to him, or his agent, for the use of the School. (*Manuscript letters to Ward Bradley, Wheelock agent. Dartmouth College Archives*)

#### THE CLOUDS RETURN

The Vermont Legislature's confirmation on Nov. 5, 1808 of the original charter did not dispel the clouds of doubt. The question of the actual legality of Moors Charity School continued to vex and perplex all concerned. It remained a convenient bone of contention whenever the matter of rents in Wheelock being paid to a "foreign body" arose, or the townspeople felt that they were being used unjustly and deprived of their civic rights.

On Nov. 9, 1831 a joint resolution was passed by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, "to investigate the question, whether the Lands in the town of Wheelock granted by this state to Moor's Charity School are forfeited to this state . . ."

Judge Asa Aikens, the first native Vermonter to sit on the Superior Court, was appointed by the Governor to study the question and make a report of his findings, which he did on Oct. 20, 1832.

His findings (*Ms. State Papers of Vt. Vol. 75 p. 49*) bring to light many interesting facts on the early history of Moors Charity School. It appears



that the school was not at first considered as a separate entity by the Rev. Eleazar Wheelock, but a kind of preparatory part of Dartmouth College. Later, either he, or his son, came to designate it as a separate institution.

The following record from an adjourned meeting of the Trustees of Dartmouth College, Feb. 15, 1796 might confirm this "separateness":

*Voted* that the Honble Jonathan Freeman Esquire be and hereby is requested, authorized and empowered to make out and execute in the name and behalf of this board a proper instrument to lease to the Honble John Wheelock, President of Moors Charity School and his successors in said Office severally the one Moiety of such part of the township of Wheelock as they shall judge adviseable to sever at present, on said President of Moors School making out and executing to this board a proper instrument to Lease to this board in severalty the other Moiety of such other part of said township as they shall judge adviseable to sever at present: said instruments to be made agreeably to the tenor of the Charter of said Township of Wheelock.

*(Dartmouth College Trustees Records)*

Judge Aikens said in his OPINION, "it is quite certain, and capable of judicial proof, that from about the period of the death of Doctor Eleazar Wheelock, this school did exist in fact . . . Indians, and perhaps some others were educated and supported there by the President of Dartmouth College, who assumed also the character of the President of the school, and appropriated to that object the avails of the Scotch fund, and some other monies."

In fact, after the death of John Wheelock, trustees of the school on Dec. 9, 1819 found that his estate was owed money from the school for his past services, etc. And as late as Jan. 15, 1828, it was found that much of this money was still owing the estate. Consequently, wrote Aikens, "the School was discontinued in August 1829, by the direction of the Board of Trustees, with the view to payment of this debt. It is now (1832) reduced by an application thereto of income from the funds, to the sum of \$475 & Interest thereon for about one year." . . .

"The undersigned is informed by Dr. Lord, the President of the school at this time, that he will probably be enabled to pay off the balance the ensuing winter, when, after refitting the Academy, it is

his intention to re-open the school, unless he should, in the mean time, be authorized to appropriate the fund to an object of more unquestionable public utility."

In concluding his Opinion, Judge Aikens finds that the Act of 1808 confirmed the original charter and "no legal cause for forfeiture has since occurred" but "he cannot but express his strong conviction that the destiny of the gratuity is an unfortunate one, and that it might, with consent of the grantee, be more worthily bestowed."

#### HINTS OF THE NEW EDUCATIONAL CONCEPT

"Experience has taught," he continued, "that the monies expended on Indian boys has in most instances been almost wholly lost. It is also a generally received opinion that the immediate vicinity of a College is a bad location for a secondary school. Young men of fortune combined with habits of extravagance & gaiety, are not infrequently the inmates of Colleges, whose example is deleterious to boys at school. And parents feel a reluctance to putting their children in the way of such example, till maturer years shall have given them strength & consideration to resist its influence."

"There is also, incident to youth, an involuntary feeling of inferiority in undergraduates, when brought into immediate contact with those above them, the moral effect of which a considerate parent will always feel disposed to avoid."

Therefore, Judge Aikens concludes, it were better, if legal means may be had, to transfer the "School" rents to the use of Dartmouth College and let the Academies of nearby Vermont towns supply the college preparatory training. In this way all existing educational institutions would be strengthened.

#### FINIS

On Feb. 5, 1913 the Vermont Legislature gave its consent to the transfer of all real and personal property in the state then belonging to the corporation known as President of Moor's Charity School to the Trustees of Dartmouth College and the corporation be dissolved. The Corporation so voted Mar. 7, 1913.

## Chapter VI

# The Early Settlers

*Vermont contains almost everything within itself that can contribute to the immediate wants, convenience, and even luxury of man. . . . Ira Allen, Natural and Political History of the State of Vermont, 1798*

Had the New York grant of Bamf to Thomas Clark & Co. been held valid by the Republic of Vermont, the settlement of that part now called Wheelock would have been very different from what it was. Some entire parish from the north of Ireland might have migrated here, as the Rev. Thomas Clark's had done to settle Salem, N. Y. Or a Scottish community or society, such as settled Barnet and Ryegate, might have chosen Wheelock, under the encouragement of Mr. Clark.

However, in the end, it was the selection of Abraham Morrill as agent for Dartmouth College that determined the settlers of Wheelock. Also contributing to the settlement were disputes that arose between the early settlers and grantees in Danville.

It was natural that Abraham Morrill should have encouraged his former neighbors in Canterbury, N. H., as well as good citizens from towns in that vicinity, to move to Wheelock. Some had already come north to Danville along with the Morrill brothers and were persuaded to move on to Wheelock, as did Abner and Barnard Hoyt, while their brother, Thomas, remained in Danville.

As was generally the case in new settlements, difficulties arose in Danville, after receiving its charter Oct. 27, 1787, between the grantees and the settlers, respecting the amount of land to which the latter were entitled. "Settlers' meetings were holden, and committees chosen; there were proprietors' meeting and conferences; but seemingly, all to no purpose." (*Child's Gazetteer Caledonia and Essex Counties p. 172*)

These dissatisfactions probably hastened the settling of Wheelock, which lay so handy to Danville, and may account for the same men appearing as first settlers and first town officers of both towns in the early years.

The first Wheelock settlers were Joseph Page and his wife, Abigail Morrill. She had been the first bride of Danville, having been married on Christmas Day 1788, with Abraham Morrill, Jus-

tice of the Peace, officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Page took up Lot No. 101 in Wheelock, which in later years became the home of Edward Moulton Magoon and his son, Israel Porter Magoon. Even later the McGovern family lived there.

According to Thompson's *Vermont*, Joseph Page and his wife were soon joined in Wheelock by Abraham Morrill and Dudley Sweasy (Swasey).

Dudley Sweasy, born in Exeter, N. H., had moved to Loudon, N. H. and thence to Danville, Vt. some time prior to 1792. In this town he had purchased a large tract of land, which he cleared as a competent and industrious farmer. His marriage to Apphia Lougee of Exeter, N. H. was published Feb. 21, 1796. Sweasy became influential in the civic affairs of Danville and, later, in Wheelock. He and his wife are buried in the North Danville village cemetery. (*Carleton's Genealogical and Family History of Vermont p. 349*)

Names from the list of original proprietors of Canterbury, N. H., dated May 20, 1727, that are later repeated among the families of early Wheelock include: Chesley, Davis, Stevens, Woodman, Keniston, Coffin, Gray, Mathews, Jones, Emerson, Follett, Sias, Willee, Sanburne, Glines, Odiorne, Jenness, etc.

The forebears of the Wheelock settlers had, over the previous 150 years, been gradually pushing north and west from the coastal settlements of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. From Cambridge, Charlestown, Boston, they had moved north into Essex County and ever north and eastward, at first, along the coastal areas, combining farming, fishing and commerce as means of livelihood as they went.

After reaching the Great Bay area and Portsmouth, however, they turned their direction inland and westerly. Their names appear in the annals of Dover and Durham, N. H. in the late 1600's and early 1700's. By the time of the French and Indian Wars, they were well along toward the center of New Hampshire. Their names later appear on the



Continental Army rolls from the towns of Canterbury, Loudon, Northfield, Barnstead, Gilmanton, Pittsfield, Chichester, etc. during the Revolutionary War.

At the conclusion of the war, tremendous expansion took place in the new United States. Where settlers in the south and middle Atlantic States pushed westward over the Alleghenies, and some in southern New England moved into Pennsylvania and Ohio, others hurried up into the Vermont wilderness to take up land. Those from central New Hampshire, who settled in Wheelock, left far behind them the coastal plains known to their ancestors. The sandy soil and pine country where they, themselves, had grown up east of the upper Merrimac, was now supplanted by a higher elevation and another type of geologic and botanical range. On their travel north, the newcomers had passed over the invisible divide to a land where pine and oak were rare. Here the timber was mostly beech, maple, birch, ash, hemlock and spruce.

#### THE CHARTER TREES

These species were memorialized in the Wheelock Charter and, although the originals have long since vanished, their seedlings bear witness still. The metes and bounds were described thus in 1788:

Birch tree (marked Lyndon SW corner Nov. 16, 1786)

Spruce tree (marked Danville corner)

little Beech tree (marked Wheelock corner July 17, 1788)

Birch tree (marked Greensborough corner May 29, 1786)

Beech tree (on north side of a flat hill marked Sheffield SE corner July 19, 1788)

Spruce tree (standing on flat land marked Wheelock corner 1788 on southeast side & Sheffield corner on NW side)

Beech tree (marked Lyndon corner July 1, 1787 / Billymead corner 1788)

Occasional swamps with tamarack, cedar and black spruce hinted of the land further north where these trees would be more common. In the very center of the township at Ramsay Corners, named for the old fiddler and sheep raiser, Bob Ramsay, the settlers would cut tall tamarack for Liberty Poles on the Fourth of July for years to come.

The settlers found that the southern part of the town had a large amount of arable land. Good grazing land was also evident. Toward the west-

ern part of the township, however, the land lay rough and hilly and some, familiar only with the more level land of their New Hampshire homes, complained that the farms were so steep, "Folks would fall off while at work and land on their neighbors below." The part beyond the chain of hills, although comprising nearly one sixth of the township, seemed barren and uninviting.

Those listed as Wheelock residents in the first census of the United States in 1790 are Bracket, Fisk, Dowe, Glines, Joseph Harris, Peter Porter, all as single "free white males 16 years and over, including heads of families." Ephraim Miles, Joseph Page, Dudley Swezy and Joseph Venen evidently had their wives with them, also children, if any. There were 33 all told.

Besides those mentioned above as residing in Wheelock, were Gideon Leavitt, Samuel Sargent, Samuel Leach, before March 1792; Thomas Noyes, John Curtis, Josiah Hines, John Ames, before March 1793; Col. John Bean, Lt. Amos Sawyer, Abner Hoyt, Sargent Morrill, Jonathan Dow, Merrill Clement, Daniel Noyes, Pardon Spooner, before March 1794; Dr. William Guy, Thomas Wright, James Sherburn, Obil Shattuck, Archaelous Woodman. Thomas Oman, Sherburn Dearbon, Jeremiah Gray, John Boynton, Moses Willey, before March 1795; Daniel Folsom, Joseph Bean, Robert Brown, Nathan Smith, Taylor Norris, John Gray, John Woodman, Thomas Locke, Nathaniel Hayward, Jonathan Hobbs Sanborn and James Cate, before March 1796, as all were elected to some town office in the years named.

Ichabod Brackett, David Allard, James Thompson, John Webber, Samuel Ward, Henry Marsh, Samuel Fifield, Thomas Otis, Simeon Brackett and Nathaniel Elkins were settled in town before 1796.

While most of the early settlers came from New Hampshire, several families came from Rhode Island, the Mathewson, Williams, and Harris families settling in Lyndon and Wheelock.

Tradition has it that the first child born in Wheelock was John Wheelock Leach. The first recorded birth is that of Henry Sherburn, Mar. 7, 1795. Abraham Morrill named his seventh child, Maria Wheelock Morrill, born Jan. 29, 1799. She married James Hill.



## WHEELOCK IN THE SECOND U. S. CENSUS

1800

John Allen  
David Addams  
Joseph Allard  
Ebenezer Bickford  
Samuel Bean  
Joshua Bangs  
Hezekiah Bickford  
John Bean  
Joseph Bean  
John Boyington  
Ichabod Bracket  
Nathaniel Brown  
Levi Bracket  
Simeon Bracket  
Robert Brown  
John Curtis  
Nathaniel Cross  
Ebenezer Chandler  
Joseph Chandler  
Joseph Conner  
Merrill Clement  
Peter W. Cochran  
John Cochran  
James Cate  
Widow Cate  
Jonathan Dow  
Sherborn Derbon  
Perkins Dow  
John Elkins  
Nathaniel Elkins  
Daniel Fulsom  
Jonathan Fulsom  
Theophilus Fulsom

Simon Fuller  
Samuel Fifield  
Daniel Foster  
William Fuller  
Simeon Fuller  
Jacob Guy  
Elijah French  
Samuel Fellows  
Daniel Gilman  
Simeon Glidden  
Jeremiah Gray  
Joshua Gray  
John Gray  
Nathaniel Howard  
Abner Hoit  
Barnet Hoit  
Daniel Hoit  
Joseph Harris  
Samuel Hutchens  
John Heath  
Nathan Hines  
Noah Holladay  
William Howard  
Joseph Ingalls  
Elijah Lyman  
Thomas Lock  
Moses Lock  
John Love  
Nehemiah Loughe  
Samuel Leach  
Gideon Leavitt  
David Little  
Henry Mash

Andrew McClaran  
Josiah Miles  
Abner Morrill  
Abraham Morrill  
Benjamin Morrill  
Michael Mosher  
Richard Mosher  
Ephraim Niles  
Thomas Noyes  
Thomas Omans  
Joshua Otis  
Thomas Otis  
Nehemiah Phillips  
William Potter  
Elisha Sanbon  
Jonathan H. Sanbon  
Obel Shattock  
Shubel Shattock  
Simeon Shattock  
James Sherbon  
David Sly  
Nathan Smith  
Ebenezer Thompson  
Thomas Townson  
James Trunt  
Joseph Verry  
Samuel Ward  
Joshua Weeks  
John Willey  
Paul Willey  
John Woodmorn  
Thomas Wright

(The names found in the Census Report are often in a slightly different spelling from that used in town records, family histories, etc.)

## EARLY WEDDING NOTICES

Tradition states that the first marriage in Wheelock was that of Joseph Bean and Annie Dow.

A later marriage announcement in the *North Star* of Apr. 13, 1811 shows a custom of the times, a few lines of verse to decorate the item:

MARRIED—At Wheelock by E. Chamberlin, Esq. Mr. Gideon Leavitt to Miss Lucy Cate, both of that place.

"Two kindred souls alone must meet  
'Tis friendship makes the bondage sweet  
And feeds their natural loves.  
Bright Venus on his rolling throne  
Is drawn by gentlest birds alone  
And Cupid yokes the Doves."

Gideon Leavitt's father had been elected the town constable at the first town meeting, March 29,

1792, and took a prominent part in town affairs thereafter. Miss Lucy Cate was the daughter of Lieut. James and Lucy (Sanborn) Cate, both of Sanbornton, N. H. Lieut. Cate was one of the Revolutionary soldiers who settled in Wheelock soon after its founding.

In the Aug. 3, 1811 copy of the *North Star* a notice states:

MARRIED—At Wheelock, Lyndon Hines of that place to Miss Hannah Hanson, Barnston, Lower Canada

(Lyndon Hines was the first male child born in Lyndon, Vt. . . . *Hemenway's Gazetteer* Vol. I p. 341)

## Chapter VII

# Revolutionary Soldiers in Wheelock

*By Judge William H. Taylor*

It is doubtful if any town settled after the war had more Revolutionary soldiers among its pioneers than did the town of Wheelock. At least sixteen of its sixty-four original lessees had seen service in the war for independence; and the names of no less than thirty-one of its early settlers appear on the Revolutionary rolls. It is altogether probable that the roll for Wheelock is incomplete, notwithstanding the care that has been taken in its preparation. It is exceedingly unfortunate that no record of these names was made until so long after those who could have given the information had passed away.

There are several among the early settlers of the same name as men who served in the Revolutionary Army in the states from which they are known to have come, but it has proved impossible to prove their identity. So far as identified they are as follows:

John Allen, John Bean, Ephraim Bigelow, Jonathan Bradley, Benjamin Carter, James Cate, Ebenezer Chandler, Merrill Clement, Joseph Conner, Daniel Cross, Moses Darling, Samuel Fifield, Jonas Flagg, Sr., Jonathan Folsom, James Glines, Nathaniel Hayward, Abner Hoyt, Gideon Leavitt, Edward Magoon, James Miner, Abraham Morrill, Sargent Morrill, Ephraim Niles, Joshua Otis, Nehemiah Phillips, David Pillsbury, Jonathan Hobbs Sanborn, James Sherburn, Thomas Townsend, Joshua Weeks, John Woodman.

We give below the record of each, so far as known, taken mainly from the Revolutionary rolls of the states from which they enlisted. The rolls, however, are incomplete and it is fair to assume that the record of the service, which we are able to give, is only a partial one.

JOHN ALLEN, born in 1746, came to Wheelock, probably from Gilmanton, N. H. before March 1794, and resided in town until his death in 1819. He was one of the original lessees and settled on Lot

No. 1 in the southeast corner of the town. In 1776 he enlisted as a private in Capt. Andrew Wilkins Company, Col. Bedell's Regiment of New Hampshire troops and served ten months. He was in the expedition to Canada, was taken prisoner at The Cedars and later exchanged. In April 1777 he enlisted in Capt. William Scott's Company, Col. Joseph Cilley's Regiment, and served five years. He was in Sullivan's Expedition against the Indians. Oct. 26, 1818 he was granted a pension under the Act of Congress of March 1818, (Sur. file No. 38,491). He died in Wheelock March 11, 1819. The place of burial is unknown, although it is probable that he was buried in the "old" cemetery by the bridge on the Lyndon road out of the village. He was the father of Samuel Allen, a long time resident of Wheelock, and grandfather of Albertus Allen of Lyndon, formerly of Wheelock.

COL. JOHN BEAN, born in Canterbury, N. H. August 1751, was one of the original lessees and came to Wheelock probably in 1793. He was a sergeant in the Canterbury Train Band at the outbreak of the war and, during the time he was in service, was called Sergt. John Bean. He enlisted as such in Capt. Gordon Hutchins' Company, Col. John Stark's Regiment in April 1775 and served until August 1775. He was at the Battle of Bunker Hill. In 1776 he was with his company in the Continental Army on the expedition to Canada. In 1777 he was attached to Capt. Chase Taylor's Company, Col. Thomas Stickney's Regiment, Col. John Stark's Brigade, which joined the Continental Army to resist Burgoyne's invasion and probably was at the Battle of Bennington. In 1778 he served in Capt. Benjamin Sias's Company, Col. Moses Nichols' Regiment with Sullivan's expedition to Rhode Island. He served in the New Hampshire State Militia after the close of the war and retired with the rank of Colonel, to which he had been promoted Jan. 8,



1790, and from which he acquired the title by which he was known in Wheelock. He died in town May 7, 1814 and is probably buried on the farm where he lived, although the spot is unknown.

EPHRAIM BIGELOW, born at Westminster, Mass. Aug. 8, 1761, was the son of Elisha Bigelow, also a Revolutionary soldier in the Massachusetts troops. Ephraim enlisted from Westminster as private in Capt. Elisha Jackson's Company, Col. Asa Whitcomb's Regiment. In August 1777, being then only 16 years old, he marched under command of Major Bridges as far as East Hoosuck, on the alarm of the Battle of Bennington, but news of the victory having been received, he was discharged and returned home. He removed to Wheelock about 1804 and resided in town until his death in 1835. He is buried at South Wheelock. He probably lived in the south part of town near the Danville line, as that is the location of the land bought by him in December 1804. His son, Samuel Bigelow, who twice represented Wheelock in the State Legislature, lived in town until 1844 and his two children, Calvin D. and Lydia E., were born in Wheelock.

JONATHAN BRADLEY was a native of Haverhill, Mass. About 1774 he removed with his family to Nottingham West, now a part of Hudson, N. H., where he was living as late as 1786. Soon after, he removed to Claremont, N. H. where he resided a few years. About 1800 he is found in Wheelock, where he resided until his death, March 13, 1840, at the advanced age of 92 years. He is buried in the village cemetery. He signed the Association Test in Nottingham West and his name appears on the Revolutionary soldiers' list in the history of the Town of Hudson, as Corporal at the battle of Lexington and as a private on the alarm of Ticonderoga in 1777. The town history also contains the report of a committee selected "to set a value upon what each man hath done in the present war." In the list of the Bennington men appears the following: "Jonathan Bradley and Thomas Hambet, in equal shares, 2 mos., \$28.00." Mr. Webster, the historian of Hudson, writes it is probable that Bradley and Hamblet furnished a substitute at the battle of Bennington in equal shares. The New Hampshire Revolutionary Rolls do not credit him with service at Bennington. However, his name appears as Corporal in Capt. Samuel Greeley's muster-roll of men "who turned out volunteers from Nottingham West in New Hampshire at the time of Lexington

battle on the 19th of April 1775" and he is credited 6 days service and 85 miles travel. His name also appears as private on the pay-roll of Capt. James Ford's Company, of men who marched from Nottingham West on the Ticonderoga Alarm in June and July 1777. He was enrolled June 30 and was discharged July 5, serving 6 days. One Jonathan Bradley appears on the pay-rolls of Joshua Abbott's Company, Col. John Stark's Regiment in 1775 and 1776, but as the residence of the men is not given, there is no means of identification. A great granddaughter, Mrs. Victor F. Clark of Beatrice, Nebraska, obtained information, certified by the Secretary of State of New Hampshire, that on the pay roll of Capt. Joshua Abbott's Company, Col. John Stark's Regiment, was a Jonathan Bradley; rank, private, time and service, 3 months, 8 days, from May 1775. The same signed a receipt for a regimental coat at Medford, Mass. Oct. 4, 1775 and another receipt for wages at New York Apr. 20, 1776 for services in the Continental Army. The Secretary of State for New Hampshire stated that the signature on the originals of the two receipts is very similar to that on the Association Test signed by a Jonathan Bradley in Nottingham West. It is entirely probable that this was the service of Corp. Jonathan Bradley, though I fail to understand, (wrote Judge Taylor), why the historian of Hudson, N. H. did not credit him with the service.

BENJAMIN CARTER was a soldier in the war of the American Revolution. He enrolled in Capt. John Langdon's Company of Light Horse, New Hampshire Volunteers as a private Aug. 6, 1778. He was discharged August 27, serving 24 days in the expedition to Rhode Island. He came to Wheelock in 1814 from Canterbury, N. H., being formerly of Boscawen, N. H. where he had married Elizabeth Blaisdell.

LIEUT. JAMES CATE came to Wheelock from Sanbornton, N. H. soon after 1792. He signed the Association Test in Sanbornton and in 1776 he enlisted as a private in Capt. John Moody's Company, Col. Baldwin's Regiment, raised to reinforce the Continental Army at New York. The records do not state the length of his service. He married Lucy, daughter of Esquire Daniel Sanborn of Sanbornton, and they had nine children. He died in Wheelock, probably in 1800, as administration of his estate was begun in April of that year. He was survived by his widow, who was living in town in 1806. It is



thought she probably married Elijah Richards of Irasburgh Dec. 3, 1808. A son, James Cate, Jr. also lived in Wheelock. Lieut. Cate was the son of James (1728-1813) and Ann (Mason) Cate, who had come to Sanbornton from Epping, N. H. In 1797 he purchased from Ebenezer Fiske, lots No. 87, 88 and 94 in Wheelock, which included the lots on both sides of the road leading west from Ramsay Corner and the Leslie lot. His burial place is unknown, though it is probable that he was buried at Ramsay Corner, as his property was near that area.

EBENEZER CHANDLER was born in Canterbury, N. H. in 1755, the son of Sanborn Chandler. He came to Wheelock in 1795, with his wife, Sally (Sargent) Chandler, and their nine children, settling near Chandler Pond. He served from the summer of 1775 to December 1776 as a private in Capt. Jeremiah Clough's Company, Col. Enoch Poor's Regiment of New Hampshire Troops at Winter Hill and on the expedition to Canada. From June 1780 to January 1781 he served in the Continental Army in Capt. Livermore's Company, Col. Dearborn's Regiment. In 1819 he was granted a pension (Sur. File No. 40,829). He lived in Wheelock until his death June 12, 1842 and is buried in South Wheelock cemetery.

MERRILL CLEMENT enlisted from Canterbury, N. H. in 1779 at the age of 16, as a private in Capt. Sias's Company, Col. Wentworth's Regiment for the defense of Portsmouth. He also served as private in the Continental Army from 1780 until December 1781. The latter enlistment is shown on the New Hampshire Revolutionary Rolls as from Loudon, which was formerly a part of Canterbury. It is thought that he came to Canterbury from Methuen, Mass. He settled in Wheelock before 1794, but his name does not appear on the tax list of 1806, indicating that he had probably removed from town before that date.

JOSEPH CONNER came to Wheelock from Barrington, N. H. as early as 1795. He enlisted in the spring of 1777 from Barrington as a private in Capt. John Drew's Co., Col. Nathan Hale's 2nd N. H. Regiment and served 13 months; was discharged in June 1778 at Valley Forge. He was granted a pension in 1820, (W. file No. 24,838) at which time he was living in Sheffield, Vt. In 1833 he was again living in Wheelock, where he died Sept. 20, 1837. The pension records, from which

most of this information was secured, indicated that he may have lived in Beekmantown, N. Y. at some time. His burial place is unknown but it seems possible that it was in the village cemetery.

LIEUT. DANIEL CROSS was living in Danville, Vt. in 1791, at the time of the first census for Vermont. On Dec. 13, 1793, he deeded his farm to Uriah Cross and came to live in Wheelock. He was one of the original lessees and "pitched" Lot 62, later known as the Day farm. He held town office during his stay in town, which was not a long one. He conveyed his holdings in 1802, at which time he was living in Missisquoi (now Troy), Vt. It is believed that he was the Daniel Cross of Newmarket, N. H., whose name appears as private on the pay roll of Capt. Simeon Marston's Company, Col. Joshua Winget's Regiment, Sept. 10, 1776; also as private in Capt. Benjamin Stone's Company, Col. Scammel's Regiment in 1780. The title "Lieut." is given wherever his name appears in the town meeting records.

MOSES DARLING came to Wheelock about 1797 from Hopkinton, N. H. and lived in town until his death March 3, 1822. He was the youngest son of Lieut. John and Hannah (Morse) Darling and was born in Hopkinton Jan. 12, 1756. On Jan. 25, 1780 he married Judith French of Hampstead, N. H., a daughter of John French. They had 15 children, several of whom made their home in Wheelock. Through error, he is referred to in Child's Gazetteer of Caledonia County, Vt., p. 252, as David Darling. It is not thought that Moses Darling ever lived in Lyndon, although his son, David, may have. The latter lived for many years in Wheelock and died there June 8, 1840. Moses Darling served several enlistments: (1) as private for eight months from April 1775 under Capts. Isaac Baldwin and John Hall's Companies, Col. John Stark's Regiment, including the Battle of Bunker Hill; (2) as private for 4 months from March 1776 under Capt. Timothy Clements, Col. David Gilman's Regiment; (3) as sergeant-major for 1 year from August 1776 in Capt. Timothy Clements Company, Col. Pierce Long's Regiment; (4) as a volunteer in Sullivan's Expedition to Rhode Island, at which time he served 25 days. He was granted a pension Sept. 22, 1820 (W file No. 24,848). He is buried in South Wheelock cemetery.



ENSIGN SAMUEL FIFIELD had already earned his title from active service in the colonial wars, which is referred to in the Fifield family records. Early in the Revolutionary war, he was a member of the committee of safety from Gilmanton, N. H. and was enrolled in the 10th Regiment of the New Hampshire Militia. On the alarm announcing the approach of Burgoyne's army, he enlisted as a private in Capt. Nathaniel Wilson's Company, Col. Thomas Stickney's Regiment, Gen. John Stark's Brigade, as raised out of the 10th Regiment, to assist in repelling the invasion. He took part in the battle of Bennington Aug. 16, 1777, serving from July 22, 1777 to Sept. 22, 1777. Family tradition says of Ensign Fifield that he was the second man over the British breastworks in the charge that routed the enemy at Bennington. Dec. 12, 1780 he again enlisted for service during the war in Maj. Benjamin Whitcomb's Independent Company of Rangers and was in service from Nov. 1, 1780 to Feb. 1, 1781. There is a reliable tradition in the family that Ensign Fifield was at the battle of Bunker Hill and was one of the Council held by Washington at Cambridge, Mass., after he took command of the American troops. Unfortunately, there is no published record of this service, but the absence of such official record does not necessarily disprove the tradition, as the Revolutionary Rolls at best are very incomplete. Samuel Fifield is probably buried in Wheelock, although where is not known.

JONAS FLAGG, SR. came to Wheelock from Gilmanton, N. H. about 1813 and settled in West Wheelock on the shore of Wheelock (Flagg) Pond, where he lived until his death March 31, 1845. He was the son of Capt. Jonas and Martha (Knight) Flagg of Hollis, N. H. and was born Mar. 10, 1762. On Nov. 27, 1788 he married Lucy Jewett of Hollis. Their son, Jonas Flagg, Jr. was a soldier in the War of 1812. Jonas Flagg, Sr. enlisted from Gilmanton, N. H. August 1778 as a private in Capt. Daniel Emerson's Mounted Company, Col. Moses Nichols' Regiment, for the expedition to Rhode Island. In the summer of 1780 he again enlisted as private in Capt. William Barrow's Company, Col. Moses Nichols' Regiment, raised for the expedition to West Point, N. Y. He is buried in the West Wheelock cemetery.

JONATHAN FOLSOM came to Wheelock from Gilmanton, N. H. about 1793. He signed the Association Test in Gilmanton. In 1775 he served as

private in Capt. Jeremiah Clough's Company, Col. Enoch Poor's Regiment of New Hampshire troops. His company was stationed at Medford, Mass. in October 1775. He was also in the service the same year on Pierce's Island. He was the son of Daniel Folsom and was born in 1750. He married Joanna Willey and their children, all born in Gilmanton were Daniel, John, William, Abraham, Hannah, Rhoda, Abigail and Polly. Of these, John married Nancy, daughter of Jonathan and Ruth (Mathews) Taylor, and their eldest, William Folsom, was a life-long resident of Wheelock. Polly, the youngest daughter of Jonathan, married Dudley Clark, Esq. The name of Jonathan Folsom appears on the town tax records as late as 1811. It is not known whether he then removed from town. His son, John, lived and died in Wheelock and others of his children settled in the vicinity. **1300532**

LIEUT. JAMES GLINES was living in Wheelock in 1791 at the time of the first census. He was born in Canterbury, N. H. about 1741. His name appears on the tax list of Canterbury from 1762-1785. He was the son of John and Mary (Bassford) Glines. His brother, Richard Glines, was one of the original lessees of Wheelock, his lot being No. 31, situated in the neighborhood of the French schoolhouse. Richard Glines was a longtime resident of Danville and, so far as is known, never lived in Wheelock. He was also a Revolutionary soldier as was another brother, Nathaniel Glines of Derby, Vt. The second town meeting in Wheelock was held at the house of Lieut. James Glines. He held several offices in Wheelock but his name does not appear after the second town meeting, indicating that he had died, or removed from town, soon after. He was 2nd Lieutenant in Col. Thomas Stickney's Regiment of New Hampshire Troops, his name appearing on a return of the commissioned officers of the regiment dated March 5, 1776. No doubt he was with the regiment through the war, but no records extant give the service in detail. On the 1816 Wheelock town poor account is an item "\$2.50 for Widow Glines pd. to Squire Carpenter."

NATHANIEL HAYWARD was one of the original lessees and came to Wheelock before March 1796. His "pitch" was Lot No. 76 situated on the County Road between South Wheelock and Danville. He was born at Reading, Mass. in 1749 and later resided at Danvers, Mass., where he enlisted as Corporal in Capt. William Wyman's Company, Col. Patter-



son's Regiment, Massachusetts Troops and served from June 1775 to January 1776. He was a pensioner under the Act of 1832 (Sur. file No. 18,429) and at the time the pension was applied for (1832) he was living in Danville, having left Wheelock after 1809. It is supposed that he died around 1835.

ABNER HOYT was one of the original lessees and came to Wheelock before 1794. He took up Lots 4, 49, 50 and 70. He is supposed to have settled near the three corners on the county road south of the South Wheelock cemetery. He was born Dec. 17, 1754, probably at Haverhill, Mass., the son of Thomas and Meriam Hoyt, who moved to Canterbury, N. H. from Haverhill about 1771. His father was also a Revolutionary soldier and died in the service. Abner Hoyt signed the Association Test in Canterbury in 1776. He served as private in Capt. Jeremiah Clough's Company, Col. Enoch Poor's Regiment, New Hampshire Troops, stationed at Medford, Mass. in October 1775. He enlisted as private in Capt. Benjamin Sias' Company, Col. Thomas Stickney's Reg., Gen. John Stark's Brigade, with which he served from July to September 20, 1777. He was at the Battle of Bennington and the first Battle of Stillwater. He was also in the Continental service in 1782, enlisting for three years, for which he received the bounty offered by the town. He died Aug. 25, 1803 and is buried in the South Wheelock cemetery.

GIDEON LEAVITT was one of the original lessees. He removed to Wheelock in 1791 from Northfield, N. H. He signed the Association Test in Sanbornton, N. H. in 1776. He was a member of the Canterbury Train Band, a militia company, and was on the "Larm List" of Northfield in 1780, after that part of Canterbury had been set off as "Northfield." He enlisted from Northfield in 1780 for three months in the Continental Army. On a badly mutilated muster roll of men detached from the militia for the defense of Portsmouth, "2 months from Sept. 27, 1779, unless sooner discharged," the name . . . Leavitt appears. Other names on the roll are men from Canterbury and it is probable that this record refers to *Gideon* Leavitt. He lived in Wheelock till his death in 1805. He is buried in the Samuel Drown burying ground.

CAPT. EDWARD MAGOON came to Wheelock before 1809 and settled in the south part of town.

He lived in town until his death Nov. 22, 1842 at the age of 87. He enlisted in August 1776 as private in Capt. Nathan Brown's Company, Col. Pierce Long's Regiment, New Hampshire Troops and was promoted to rank of Corporal during his service of one year. He was in the expedition to Ticonderoga. No record has been found that he held a commission as Captain and it is probable that he got that title from service in the militia after the war. He was granted a pension July 31, 1820 (Sur. file No. 40,962). He was married in Kingston (N. H. or Me.) Aug. 14, 1782 to Jehoshea (Jehosheba) Bude. His surviving children at the time of his death were Edward M. Magoon, Jehoshea Hussey and Judith G. Hubbard. He is buried in the cemetery at South Wheelock.

JAMES MINER was born Feb. 22, 1759 at Woodbury, Conn., from which place he enlisted and served as private in the Connecticut Troops as follows: June 1776, six months in Capt. Hurd's Company, Col. Wadsworth's Regiment; May 1777 to Spring 1778 in Capt. Abel Bostwick's Company, Col. Enos's Regiment; summer 1778 for two months in Capt. Hines' Company, Col. Canfield's Regiment; Fall 1779 two months under Col. Porter; June 1781 three months in Capt. Reuben Bostwick's Company, Col. Canfield's Regiment. He was probably son of Dea. Reuben Miner, who died in Peacham in 1829, aged 93. James Miner was living in Peacham in 1791, but moved to Danville about 1808 and was living there when (1832) he was granted a pension (W file No. 23,977). Later he came to live with his son, Caleb Miner, whose home was the red house above the mineral spring. He died Sept. 11, 1843 and is buried in the village cemetery.

ABRAHAM MORRILL was one of the original lessees and came to Wheelock from Danville, Vt. before Sept. 6, 1791. He was a native of Canterbury, N. H. and was living there during the Revolutionary War. He signed the Association Test there and was a member of the Canterbury Train Band. He served as a volunteer in Col. Stickney's Regiment in the expedition for the relief of Ticonderoga in July 1777 and was at the battle of Bennington. He enlisted as private in Capt. Benjamin Sias' Company, Col. Moses Nichols' Regiment in the expedition to Rhode Island in August 1778. He moved from Wheelock to Lima, N. Y., where he was living in 1821. He died Sept. 19, 1845 at Ogden, N. Y.



SARGENT MORRILL, a brother of Abraham Morrill, and one of the original lessees, came to Wheelock from Danville about 1791. He was a native of Canterbury, N. H., where he signed the Association Test and was a member of the Train Band. In 1776 he enlisted for service in the Continental Army, as private in Capt. Jeremiah Clough's Company. His name also appears on the pay roll of Capt. Benjamin Emery's Company, Col. Baldwin's Regiment, for service in September 1776. He removed from Wheelock to Duncansboro (now Newport, Vt.) about 1797 and in 1803, with his son, Jeremiah Morrill, settled in Irasburg, where it is supposed he died.

EPHRAIM NILES was one of the original lessees, his "pitch" being lot No. 74 situated in the Shattuck neighborhood. He was born in Braintree, Mass. in 1755 and resided at Milton, Mass. at the time of his enlistments. In April 1775 he enlisted as private in Capt. Bradley's Company and served six weeks. Later, he enlisted as private in Capt. Elijah Vose's Company, Col. John Greaton's Regiment and served eight months, during which time he was promoted as Orderly Sergeant. He also served as private in the expeditions to Rhode Island in 1777 and 1778 and for four months (date unknown) in Capt. Keith's Company. He was living in Wheelock at the time of the first census in 1790. In 1832 he was granted a pension (Sur. File No. 18,429) at which time he was living on the edge of Lyndon near Wheelock. In 1840 he was still living there with his son, Oliver Niles, father of Clarinda D. (Niles) Cree.

JOSHUA OTIS settled in Wheelock about 1793. He had married Lydia Meader March 15, 1787. He was one of the original lessees, his "pitch" lot being lot No. 104 located in the Porter neighborhood. He was born in Barrington, N. H., the son of Joshua and Jane (Hussey) Otis, on March 30, 1764. Some uncertainty as to his enlistments exists, there being several Revolutionary soldiers by that name. The fact that he served in that war is asserted in the account of him in the Otis Family genealogy. He removed to Danville before the War of 1812 broke out and served in that war from Danville. One of his sons, Stephen Otis, died in the army during the War of 1812 and another son, Daniel Otis, born in Wheelock Dec. 6, 1794 also served in the War of 1812 and was a pensioner. He married Sophia Butler and settled in East Pierpont, N. Y. Joshua Otis

removed from Danville to Peacham, Vt. and later to Parishville, N. Y., where he died March 4, 1834.

DAVID PILLSBURY was one of the original lessees. He came to Wheelock before 1792 from Gilmanston, N. H. He took up land at Ramsay Corner. His name appears on the muster roll of recruits for the New Hampshire Troops and he is credited with service from July 7 to Dec. 10, 1780. His age is given as 17 years. He also served in the expedition to West Point in 1781. With John Ames, another early settler of Wheelock, he removed to Barton in 1796 and made the first settlement in that town (*History of Orleans County*, pp. 75 and 84)

LIEUT. NEHEMIAH PHILLIPS first settled in Danville before 1789 and was one of the proprietors of that town named in the second Charter issued in 1802. He held numerous public offices there and is mentioned in the town records by his title, Lieutenant. He removed to Wheelock before 1798 and resided there until his death March 12, 1843. He lived on the farm later owned by George W. Nelson. He served from the spring of 1779 to June 1783 in the New Hampshire Troops, under Capt. Ellis and Monro, Cols. Scammell, Reed and Dearborn, and was in the Light Infantry under Lafayette at the siege of Yorktown. He was granted a pension Sept. 16, 1819 (Sur. File No. 41,070). He was frequently elected to office in Wheelock and was a useful and respected citizen. He is buried in the Wheelock village cemetery.

JONATHAN HOBBS SANBORN was the fifth child of Daniel and Lucy (Hobbs) Sanborn, born in North Hampton, N. H. May 3, 1759. The family later moved to Sanbornton, N. H., where he was living during the war. In 1777 he enlisted as private in Capt. Chase Taylor's Company, Col. Thomas Stickney's Regiment, Gen. John Stark's Brigade of New Hampshire Troops, which joined the Continental Army to oppose Burgoyne's invasion. In 1779 he served as private in Capt. Samuel Runnal's, Col. Hercules Mooney's Regiment, raised for the defense of Rhode Island. Jonathan Hobbs Sanborn married Sarah, a sister of Josiah Miles, husband of his oldest sister, Marah. With his younger brothers, John and Elisha, and his brother-in-law, Josiah Miles, he removed to Wheelock about 1792. He probably went with his oldest son, Jonathan, to reside in Danville some time in 1808, as they were "warned out" of Danville in 1809, under a statute permitting this to be done in case of persons who had



come to town within the past year. A Jonathan Sanborn voted at the Freeman's meeting in 1810.

JAMES SHERBURN came to Wheelock before 1795. He was one of the original lessees and pitched on lot No. 13, later the Loan farm. He was born about 1751, probably in Canterbury, N. H. He married Elizabeth Gibson at Canterbury August 9, 1781, and was living in Northfield, N. H., formerly a part of Canterbury, in 1790. He enlisted from Canterbury in the summer of 1775 as private in Capt. Jeremiah Clough's Company, Col. Enoch Poor's Regiment and served seven months at Winter Hill near Boston. He was with the same company in the expedition to Canada in 1776. He was also a volunteer from Canterbury with the New Hampshire Troops that joined the Continental Army to oppose Burgoyne's invasion and was engaged in the Battle of Bennington. Entries in Ward Bradley's account books show that while in Wheelock Sherburn was engaged to draw freight from Boston in 1819. It is probable that he lived in town until his death, but place of burial is not known.

THOMAS TOWNSEND was the son of William and Mary Townsend, born in Salem, N. H., formerly a part of Haverhill, Mass., on Apr. 27, 1750. He married Sarah Harriman and was living in Salem during the war. In 1780 he enlisted as private in Capt. Ephraim Stone's Company, Major Benjamin Whitcomb's Regiment for the defense of the western frontier. He came to Wheelock in 1797 from Deering, N. H. and lived in town until his death Oct. 11, 1814. He is buried in the South Wheelock cemetery. He settled in the Porter neighborhood on lots No. 80 and No. 102. His children were Isaiah, James, Daniel, William, Mary and Lydia. His son, James Townsend, married Zerviah Leavitt, daughter of Gideon and Ruth (Taylor) Leavitt and settled in Sheffield. Isaiah married Polly . . . and lived on the home farm until after the death of his father, when he removed to Bridport, Vt. He had a son, Goodenough, born in Wheelock Oct. 18, 1812.

CAPT. JOSHUA WEEKS, as he was sometimes called, probably receiving this title from service in the Militia, was one of the early settlers in Wheelock Hollow, or village. He was probably born in Greenland, N. H. in 1748 and went to Canterbury, N. H. in 1774. He married Suzannah, daughter of Dea. Ezekial Morrill of Canterbury, and was living there during the war. He took the Association Test in that town, also was a member of its Train Band.

In 1775 he enlisted as private in Capt. Jeremiah Clough's Company, Col. Enoch Poor's Regiment and served for seven months at Winter Hill near Boston. In 1776 he enlisted as private in the same company for service in the Continental Army as from Loudon, N. H., formerly a part of Canterbury. In the census of 1790 he was living in Canterbury. In 1814 he deeded lot No. 70, situated on the west side of the County Road between South Wheelock and Danville to his son, John Weeks, reserving a life lease and he may have been living there at the time. If he died in town, which is quite probable, his burial place is unknown. His daughter, Comfort, married Joseph H. Ingalls, who came to Wheelock from Madbury, N. H. about 1797. Mr. Ingalls removed to Sheffield about 1806 and became prominent in the business and civic affairs of that town.

JOHN WOODMAN was one of the original lessees, Lot 17 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 18, and came to Wheelock from Barrington, N. H. probably in 1791. On Sept. 29, 1790 he signed a bond with Pres. John Wheelock of Dartmouth College, agreeing to settle in the town within a year from that time (*Dartmouth College Trustees Records*). He located on what was later the Henry Hoffman farm on the edge of Lyndon, the site of the house being in the field below the present house and marked with a granite monument. It was in this house that his son, Rev. Jonathan Woodman, was born Nov. 27, 1798. It is probably through John Woodman's influence that many came to settle in Wheelock from the vicinity of Barrington. He was a descendant of Dea. Joshua Woodman and the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Woodman, born in Newbury, Mass. Jan. 15, 1762. It is impossible to identify his record as to service in the Revolutionary war. There are no less than four John Woodman records in the Massachusetts Revolutionary Rolls, with nothing to indicate what town, or towns, should be credited with the enlistments. We are forced to rely upon the tradition of the family and the community that John Woodman of Newbury, Mass. and later of Wheelock, was a Revolutionary soldier. He married, first Sarah Foy, of Strafford, N. H., born 1768. She died in Wheelock March 12, 1808. He married for his second wife, Hannah Smith on Dec. 31, 1809. He died Dec. 7, 1853 at the advanced age of 91. Dea. Peter Woodman, a long time resident of Wheelock and, later, of Lyndon, was a son. John Woodman is buried in the village cemetery.

## WHEN THRIFT WAS PATRIOTIC

Twelve children, descendants of Capt. Edward Magoon, were left motherless when the youngest Benjamin, the grandfather of the narrator, was but a little lad. It became the duty of the oldest girl to take over the mother's responsibilities, not the least of which was to see that all had clothing. It grew near the time when the littlest brother would go to school. A pinafore would no longer "do" but

where to get something new was a desperate question.

Just about that time, someone donated a new flag to the school. Seeing that there was much good homespun material left in the old one, Sister Jane carefully ripped it apart. Out of the blue field she made a fine little pair of pants for the young scholar, and thus solved the problem. (*Dr. Eva Waterman Magoon Somerville, St. Johnsbury*)



## Chapter VIII

# First Town Meeting

*The rich and poor gave counsel: wrath and love came up in company; it was a free strife and an assurance of man's capacity for self-government*

—Emerson, on the Early Town Meeting

The first settlers of Wheelock brought with them a long heritage of organizing towns. Their ancestors had been doing it in America for nearly two hundred years. The first Town Meeting in Wheelock was warned by Abraham Morrill March 12, 1792 and held on March 29 at the dwelling of Dudley Sweasey, "ship carpenter."

### THE WARNING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF WHEELOCK

State of Vermont )

Orange S S ) Being desired by a sufficient  
Number of the Inhabitants  
of the Town of Wheelock  
to warn a meeting of Said  
Town for the Purpose of Or-  
ganizing said Town—I do  
therefore at their request no-  
tify and warn the Freemen &  
Inhabitants of Said Town of  
Wheelock to meet at Mr.

Dudley Sweaseys dwelling house in said Town on  
the last Thursday of this Instant March at 10 O'clock  
fournoon

1 ly To Choose a moderator to Govern Said  
Meeting

2 ly To Choose a Town Clerk for the Year  
ensuing

3 ly To Choose Selectmen Constable Treasur-  
er and all other Town Officers as the law directs

And to act on any other things that may be  
thought proper when met

Wheelock March 12th 1792

Abraham Morrill Just. Peace

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The inhabitants being met in consequence of  
the above warning proceeded as follows—

1 ly Chose Dudley Sweasey Moderator

2 ly Chose Abraham Morrill Town Clerk

3 ly Chose Dudley Sweasey, Abm Morrill and  
Joseph Venen Selectmen

4 ly Chose Gideon Leavitt Constable

5 ly Chose David Pilsbury Thydingman

6 ly Chose Thomas Dow Grand Jureman

7 ly Choose James Glines Samuel Sargent  
Samuel Leach and Ephraim Niles Sur-  
veyors of highways

8 ly Choose Dudley Sweasey James Glines  
David Pilsbury John and Joseph Venen  
a committee to lookout a Road through  
Said Town of Wheelock and to say  
where and on which Road Abraham  
Morrill shall do the worke that he is to  
do agreeable to an Obligation he gave  
the Hon. John Wheelock Esq. President  
of Dartmouth College—respecting the  
cuting roads and building bridges in Said  
Town of Wheelock and furthermore said  
committee is to say when Said road is  
done agreeable to said articles and also to  
say when the Gristmill and sawmill that  
said Morrill is to build in said Town are  
compleated agreeably to the conditions of  
settling said Town which was signed by  
said Wheelock

Dudley Sweasy Joseph Venen Gideon Leavitt  
David Pilsbury Samuel Sargent James Glines  
Ephraim Niles took the oath of Office—and the  
Meeting was Disolved—

Attest: Abraham Morrill Town Clerk  
Afterwards Abraham Morrill was sworn to the  
faithful discharge of his office and Duty as Town  
Clerk

Attest: Abm Morrill Town Clerk

Succeeding town meetings were held at Lieut.  
James Glines' dwelling and from 1794 to 1801 at  
Col. John Bean's dwelling and tavern. This was  
a large square house, probably built in 1793. After  
1801 town meetings were held at the new Meeting-  
house, just south of Col. Bean's on the County road.  
When this building was torn down in 1833, a small-  
er "town house," using the same timbers, was built  
on the same spot. Town meetings were held in it  
until 1854: after which town meetings were called  
at the Hollow.

Through the years the routine business of town  
meeting was the election of town officers, the care of  
the roads, the provision for schooling, support of the  
poor and ill, etc. just as it is today. Occasionally  
special problems arose that had to be solved by vote  
of the inhabitants at town meeting.

EXTRACTS FROM OLD RECORDS OF  
TOWN MEETINGS

- March 10, 1794 First money raised "to hire schooling for the present year." Raised twenty pounds. Nine pounds voted for support of "town charges."
- March 9, 1795 First time in the warning, "To see how much Money the Town will raise to hire Preaching the present year." No vote recorded.
- March 14, 1797 Voted, 15 pounds to hire schooling the year ensuing, 12 pounds was voted for "town charges", but none for preaching.
- Dec. 16, 1799 Voted, to choose a committee to erect guideposts in said Town of Wheelock.
- April 11, 1803 Voted, that those persons who have, or shall have the kind Pox have the liberty to be inoculated with the small pox under such regulations as the law in that case directs, provided they do not do it till after the first day of November next.
- March 11, 1806 Voted, that Hogs be Restrained from running at large the whole year.
- March 21, 1809 Voted, that Every one Should be Warned out of Town that Moved in with his family, or otherwise  
(This was a common practice in towns, being a method of absolving the towns of "poor care" should the newcomers prove incapable of looking after themselves and paying their bills. Even Erastus Fairbanks, a future Governor of Vermont, was so honored.)
- March 18, 1817 Voted, \$400 for the care of the poor  
(This was the year after 1800-and-froze-to-death, when summer snow destroyed the crops)
- March 17, 1818 Voted \$400 for care of the poor  
(Began at this time the custom of venduing to the lowest bidder the keeping of the poor)
- March 12, 1822 Voted, that the town officers shall serve the town the ensuing year at the rate of .50 cents a day for the time Spent in town service
- Sept. 5, 1826 Voted, that the town receive the rents that have been paid to Wm. Chamberlain and that shall hereafter become due on the Minister and School Lots.  
Voted, that the Town Treasurer be a committee to receive and account for same.
- March 10, 1829 Voted, to restrain dogs from running at large in this town.

Voted, that any dog that shall go into the Meetinghouse now occupied for publick worship within this town may be killed by any person whomsoever thereafter.

- March 6, 1834 Voted, that every mans dog that goes to a meeting of religious worship sd. dogs shall be forfeited unless the owner immediately takes care of him

## THE HAYWARDS

In addition to the regular town officers prescribed by law, the office of hayward was regularly filled in Wheelock in early times. A description and history of this office was given by O. D. M. in the St. Johnsbury Republican for Dec. 8, 1927.

"The election of some young married men to this not all-important office was regarded more or less as a joke and its only real and immediate obligation was the necessity of 'setting 'em up' for the crowd.

"The office of hayward is not recognized as a town office according to law in the revised statutes of the State at the present time. It was of old English origin, the name 'hayward' coming from the Old English words 'haw,' meaning 'hedge,' and 'weard,' meaning a 'guard.' It was used in England to designate the officer whose duty it was to tend the herds of cattle held in common by a parish or manor and to guard hedges and other enclosures from injury by them. Consequently, back in the old country, before the office became entangled and contaminated with the frivolities and pleasantries of early American civilization and customs, this office had its legitimate duties and place in the governmental system.

"Collins, in his *History of Vermont*, wrote: 'In New England in the early days of settlement, if several settlers lived near a beaver meadow, it was considered only fair to hold it as a common property, since there grew hay that could be cut and stacked without the trouble of clearing the land. It became expedient and economical to have one man assume the responsibility for the several, or individual, members of the settlers' herds.'

"In those days, therefore, the hayward, or hay reeve, or hog reeve, became a town officer as important as any. Later, the name 'hayward' was applied to the officer chosen to take up and impound cattle found at large; still later he became known as *pound keeper*.



"In the early days, as the haywards were liable to be called out at any time, day or night, to impound stray animals, it evidently grew to be a standing joke in annual meeting to bestow the duties of this rather doubtful responsibility on some of the newly wed men of the community."

## POUNDKEEPERS

1816 William Townsend  
 1819 Cyrus Root  
 1820 William Townsend  
 1821 Levi Whitcher

1822 Levi Whitcher  
 1823 Jonathan Miles  
 1824  
     to Henry Jones  
 1830  
 1831 Dudley Leavitt and Benjamin Conner  
 1832 Henry Jones  
 1833 William B. Jones  
 1834 Henry Jones  
 1835 William B. Jones (for the rest of his life) to  
     1875

## Chapter IX

# The First Meeting House

The important step of 1796 toward the further establishing of the town was the decision to build a meeting house and it is described by Hon. Thomas Jefferson Cree for *Hemenway's Gazetteer* (Vol. I p. 433):

In November 1796 the town voted to build a meeting-house, the first in town. It was built the following year. It was a large two story edifice and, like others of its kind, was never finished. Enough was done, however, so that meetings could be held in it. It was never lathed and plastered overhead; a hail storm broke some of the windows in the upper story, which invited the swallow and the wren to make it their abode. The writer occasionally attended meeting there in 1829-1830; the monotonous tone of the preacher, the cheerful twitter of the swallow and the crying of the *babies* that used then to be carried to meeting, formed rather a medley of sound.

One curious vote was taken by the town in relation to this house that I must not omit. It appears by the record that they had a town meeting for the purpose of selling the pews, and the first vote passed was as follows: 'Voted, that the town be at the expense of rum for vendueing of the meeting house pews'; and from subsequent bids, it would appear that some of the pews were very valuable; however, I suppose it was customary to have rum at all vendues to stimulate people to bid for what they did not want, and was thought to be well enough in selling church property.

Judge Cree, writing this in 1867, could not refrain from making a comment timely to that date: "It would hardly do, in these temperate times, for even a town to furnish, or give away, rum to sell anything, particularly pews in a meeting-house."

A more detailed account of the planning for, and the erection of, the first meetinghouse, given by O. D. Mathewson at the reunion of the South Wheelock Church on Aug. 4, 1929, appeared in the Vermont Union-Journal of Aug. 7, 1929 as follows:

On July 6, 1796 the inhabitants of Wheelock met at Col. John Bean's dwelling house, agreeable to a warning issued by the selectmen, Abner Morrill, John Bean and Jonathan Dow, and voted 'to build a meeting or Town house soficient to hold Town

Meetings and to meat in on the Sabbath for religious worship.' John Bean, Thomas Noyes and Abraham Morrill were chosen a committee to 'draught' a plan for 'said House.' The meeting adjourned until Sept. 6, when it was voted 'to accept of the draught for a meeting house exhibited by the committee.' The meeting adjourned until October 4 and again until November 20, when it was voted 'to sell the Pew Ground at Public Vendue and convert the effects for the purpose so far as it will go.'

VOTED, to choose a committee of seven men to arrange the business of the vendue Chose Jonathan Dow, John Bean, Nathaniel Howard, Thomas Otis, Thomas Dow, Abraham Morrill and Jonathan Sanborn

VOTED, the day of the sale to be the 13th day of December next at 10 o'clock before noon at Col. John Bean's The meeting then adjourned until that date

On the day appointed, the inhabitants met in a good frame of mind, or determined soon to become so, for they immediately

VOTED, that the Town be at the expense of rum for vendueing of the Meeting-house Pews

VOTED, to have a committee of three to superintend the building of said House.

Chose for this purpose Col. John Bean, Dr. William Guy and Lieut. James Cate, also Abraham Morrill as clerk of the vendue and Col. John Bean as Vendue Master.

VOTED, that the vendue Master set up the pews in corse as he shall think proper after the Vendue begins.

The following were the 'conditions of sail of the Pews in the meeting house, which is to be built in Wheelock agreeable to the vote of the Town for that purpose:

1. The pews are to be finished.
2. The pews are to be bid of to the hiest bidder.
3. There are to be paid 700 (feet) of Good Merchantable boards to be delivered at the place which is appointed by the Town to build said House to each pew at 40 shill-



ings pr. thousand and remainder of what the pew is bid of at in good Merchantable wheat at 6 shillings per bushel, or in (cash) paid and delivered to the Committee.

4. Those persons who bid of a pew are to give their Obligations to the above said Committee to make out their payment by the first day of January A. D. 1798 and to pay all the damages in case of neglect.
5. The shingles and claboards are to be vendued to the lowest bidder only by those who become purchasers.
6. The above Committee are to be equally accountable to the purchasers that they will lay out the money by the 1st day of November 1798 towards building the House and furnishing the same so far as it will go.'

The committee then signed the obligation to lay out the money and to be responsible for all damages due to their neglect. And it was then

VOTED, to locate the house as near the road as is convenient on the highest rise of land between Col. Bean's house and where Dudley Sweasy formerly lived.

Having attended to all the necessary preliminaries, Col. Bean then proceeded to vendue the pews, sometimes known as "slips." The results were listed as follows:

No. 28	sold to Abraham Morrill	at \$24.00
No. 1	sold to Ichabod Brackett	at 42.00
No. 27	sold to David Allard	at 23.00
No. 2	sold to James Thompson	at 34.00
No. 3	sold to James Cate	at 42.50
No. 25	sold to Daniel Noyes	at 20.00
No. 24	sold to David Allard	at 29.00
No. 5	sold to John Webber	at 24.00
No. 23	sold to Samuel Ward	at 20.00
No. 7	sold to J. H. Sanborn	at 31.00
No. 21	sold to Henry Marsh	at 21.50
No. 9	sold to Ephraim Niles	at 28.00
No. 20	sold to Jono. H. Sanborn	at 33.00
No. 10	sold to Joseph Venen	at 29.00
No. 18	sold to Simeon Brackett	at 38.50
No. 11	sold to Samuel Fifield	at 21.00
No. 19	sold to Simeon Brackett	at 41.50
No. 12	sold to Thomas Otis	at 25.00
No. 17	sold to Nathaniel Elkins	at 51.00
No. 16	sold to Abraham Morrill	at 21.00
No. 13	sold to Thomas Dow	at 22.00
No. 15	sold to Obil Shattuck	at 21.00
No. 14	sold to John Gray	at 22.50
No. 6	sold to Robert Brown	— —
No. 22	sold to Samuel Ward	at 21.00
No. 4	sold to James Cate	— —

On March 13, 1798 Abner Hoyt was chosen a member of the building committee in place of Dr. William Guy, who had removed from town. On Jan. 12, 1799 Col. John Bean deeded an acre of land to the selectmen, Abner Hoyt and Abraham Morrill,

for a site for the meeting house. (*Wheelock Land Records Vol. II pp. 208-209*)

Materials for building the house were vendued thus:

1000	of Claboards	bid of by Elisha Sanborn at	\$9.50
1000	of Claboards	bid of by Thos. Otis for	9.50
1000		by Henery Marsh at	9.75
1000		by Col. John Bean at	9.50
1500	short shingles	by Abraham Morrill at	1.68
		pr. thousand	
1000	merchantable pine, spruce		
	or hemlock boards	by Edward Fifield at	6.25
1000	same	by Elisha Sanborn at	6.25
1000		by Joseph Venen at	6.25
1000		by Thos. Otis at	6.67
1000		by Abraham Morrill at	6.67
1000		by Edward Fifield at	6.50

On Feb. 17, 1800 a committee, consisting of Joseph Venen, John Boynton and Joshua Bangs, was elected to settle with Col. John Bean for building the meeting house frame and to act with the former committee in completing the house.

#### THE PROBLEM OF PORCHES

Jan. 5, 1801 the town took back two pews and voted to add two porches to the meeting house.

VOTED, that the west end one is to be built with long posts, the posts are to come within one foot and a half of the Ground, to have sills at the bottom and others even with the sills of the meeting house, to have guths and be hipt rafters . . . bid off to John Bean, Jr. at thirteen dollars by the first day of May next; the east end porch was bid off to John Bean Esq, at eight dollars and seventy-five cents. The porches are to be shingled and an outer dore made and hung with Iron hinges to be done deacent and in a workmanlike manner, to find nails and hang the dores, to be completed by the first day of June next.

John Curtis bid off the finishing of the west porch for \$20 and the other for \$17, after the town refused to accept the porches as planned above. This followed the resignation of Abner Hoyt from the building committee in the summer of 1801 and the subsequent discharge of the other members, John Bean and Abraham Morrill, by the town in December of that year. The town selected a new committee, Joseph Venen, John Curtis and Barnard Hoyt, to accept the porches when completed according to agreement.

#### GOOD EFFORTS OF DEMON RUM

March 9, 1802 the town voted to take back several pews, after trying in vain to compel Simeon Brackett in a law suit to take the pews bid off by him

at the vendue of December 1796. After sober reflection over a period of six years, \$80 probably seemed to Simeon much too much to pay for pews No. 18 and No. 19.

On Dec. 10, 1802 a vote was taken to sell the pews of the meeting house then in the hands of the town. It passed in the negative. At the same time the town voted to add four pews to the number already planned.

Apr. 3, 1803 it was VOTED, to sell the pews at vendue and that the avales thereof should be applied to the finishing off the Pews and loar part of the meeting house.

VOTED, to finish the loar part of the meeting house the ensuing season, and John Curtis bid off the work at \$200.

At this meeting eight pews were struck off to David Morrill, Theophilus Folsom, Joseph Lane, Abner Morrill, Peter W. Cochran, John Heath and John Bean, Esq. for the sum of \$182.50. It is interesting to note that four of the pews sold at this time brought \$96, while the same ones had brought \$143.00 at the first vendue, when the town furnished rum.

#### OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

March 11, 1806 it was voted to raise enough money to glaze the lower part of the meeting house. The records are then silent for several years until May 12, 1812, when Ward Bradley was chosen in place of David Worthen to superintend the job let to John Curtis.

There was another long silence until July 1, 1817, when a notice appeared, signed by Joseph Lane, John Chase and Barnard Hoyt, stating that they will sell the "ground for the gallery pews." Samuel Fellows was chosen vendue master. Pew grounds were struck off to Meshach Darling, Nehemiah Phillips, Abner Hoyt, John White and Josiah Lane. The meeting then voted to have the gallery pews numbered by the committee, and adjourned until September 2. On that date, with Nathan Hines acting as clerk, ground for the gallery pews was sold to Walter Hoyt, William Curtis, George

Hodgdon, John Sanborn, Moses Hubbard (2), Nathaniel Badger, David Morrison, Abner Morrill, Thomas Sanborn, Stephen Haines, Nathan Hines, Dominicus Sargent, John Chase and Jonathan Taylor. The prices ranged from \$1.50 to \$3.00. Apparently, the bidders were to build their own pews.

#### CHANGE AND DECAY

Dec. 16, 1826 there was an article in the town warning, to see if the town will give up its rights in the meeting house to the Freewill Baptist Society on the condition that they will build a new house, or repair the old one. The town voted in the negative.

Following this action, in 1828 the Freewill Baptist Society built a church of its own on a new site, deeded to it by Jesse Leavenworth, Jr., about a mile south from the first meeting house.

An article in the warning dated Feb. 24, 1831 was, to see if the town will vote to repair the old meeting house for the purpose of doing business. In response to this, the town elected Ward Bradley, Abner Morrill, Barnard Hoyt, Nehemiah Phillips, Peter W. Cochran and Frederick Leavenworth, a committee to inquire and receive quit claims of all persons owning pews in the old meeting house. The building was evidently in need of repairs for it was referred to as the "old" meeting house.

March 5, 1833 the town voted to build a "house for town purposes" near the brook by Elijah Bagley's. This vote was 'abrogated' on April 15, 1833. After some confusing action at a special meeting May 27, the town voted to build a 'town house where the old meeting house stands.' This vote was carried out, for the Freeman's Meeting was warned to meet at 'the town house in said town where the old meeting house formerly stood.'

The timbers of the old meeting house were used in erecting the smaller building to be used as a town hall. What were left were used for the horse sheds north of the new church in 1828.

The site of the first meeting house, on the east side of the old County Road, is marked with a granite monument and bronze plaque reading:

Marks the Site  
First Meeting House  
for religious worship  
1796  
Used for Town Meetings  
until 1854  
Freemen's Meetings  
until 1866  
Town Hall Building  
erected 1871



## Chapter X

# First Twenty-seven Town Representatives

*The House of Representatives of the Freemen of this State shall consist of persons most noted for wisdom and virtue to be chosen by the freemen of every town in this State, respectively. And no foreigner shall be chosen, unless he has resided in the town, for which he shall be elected, one year immediately before said election . . . Section VII of the First Constitution of Vermont, July 2, 1777*

### COL. JOHN BEAN

He came to Wheelock about 1793 from Canterbury, N. H. He was one of the original lessees of the town, his lots being one half of Lots No. 65 and 66 and all of Lot No. 86. His place was later known as Fifield Tavern, the Bagley Stand, and the old Buckley place. Here town meetings were often held, even after the meeting house was built near by.

Col. John Bean was a lineal descendant of John Bean of Scottish descent, who came to America and settled in Exeter, N. H. as early as 1660. In July 1671 he was one of four designated to run the line between Exeter fall and Lamprey River fall and 'if any of these men refuse to go, he is to pay ten shillings.'

Col. John Bean was born in August 1751 and died in Wheelock May 7, 1814. He married Hannah, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Dolloff) Ames. They had nine children: John, Joseph, Hannah, Samuel, Sarah, James, David, Mary and Asa, all of whom were born in Canterbury, N. H. He served in Capt. Shepard's Company in an expedition to Canada. He was also in Capt. Gordon Hutchins' Company at Bunker Hill. He was sent to Rhode Island on an expedition in 1778. His title of Colonel probably came after the Revolutionary War in connection with the militia.

Col. Bean was very prominent in town affairs. While many of his descendants went west, mostly to Ohio and Canada, a few remained in this part of Vermont.

He was town representative 1794-1796, 1799 and 1805.

### ABRAHAM MORRILL

He was born in Canterbury, N. H. Jan. 1, 1756 and died in Ogden, N. Y. Sept. 19, 1845. He married, March 24, 1785, Sarah, daughter of Thomas and Miriam (Kimball) Hoyt. She was born Nov. 12, 1765 and died Oct. 4, 1847.

The Morrill family was active and somewhat prominent in the affairs of Canterbury. Five sons of Deacon Ezekiel Morrill, Abraham, David, Ezekiel, Laban and Sargent, all served in the Revolutionary War.

After the war, Abraham removed to Danville, Vt. Just when he left Canterbury is uncertain but he and his brother, Sargent, were not taxed there after 1790. He was prominent in the early history of Danville, being its first town clerk and first town representative in 1788. He was elected a Justice of the Peace in 1789. At a meeting held Dec. 2, 1790 he was elected a delegate from Danville to the State Convention at Bennington. This was held in January 1791, preliminary to the admittance of Vermont as a state into the Union, and served the purpose of deliberating on, and agreeing to, the Constitution of the United States. (*Slade's State Papers 1823, pp. 194-5*)

The town records of Danville disclose Abraham Morrill's removal to Wheelock as sometime prior to Sept. 6, 1791, when a special town meeting was called to elect a town clerk "as the present town clerk has moved out of town."

Seven members of the Morrill family came to Wheelock. The following were in town on the dates indicated after their names: Abraham Mor-

rill 1791-1818; Abner, 1799-1817; Benjamin, 1798-1799; David, 1799-1803; Ebenezer, 1799; Joseph, 1802; Sargent, 1794-1795. A sister, Susanna, married Joshua Weeks.

The rapid growth of Wheelock in the first twenty years was largely due to the efforts of Abraham Morrill, as agent for Dartmouth College. He was instrumental in settling some seventy-five families in the town and was assisted in this by Deacon John Woodman, among others.

Abraham Morrill was elected a selectmen at the first town meeting and served in that capacity for several years, also as town clerk. As Justice of the Peace he called the first town meeting in Sheffield Mar. 31, 1796 at the home of Moses Foss. The warning for the first town meeting in Lyndon was issued by Morrill and "dated at Wheelock this 25th day of June, 1791." He served as representative 1797-98, 1800-1804, 1806, 1808 and 1812.

It is evident that Mr. Morrill was a man of property, as the original plan of the town shows him owner of fifteen lots. He had eleven children, all but one being girls.

Soon after 1812 he moved to Lima, N. Y., where he was living, according to the records, in 1821. He died at Ogden, N. Y. when nearly ninety years old.

#### SAMUEL FELLOWS, JR.

The Fellows family appears to have come from Hartford, Conn. Three members of the family voted in 1800, Samuel, Samuel, Jr. and John W. Fellows.

Samuel Fellows assumed a lease of William Marsh July 6, 1799, so it is probable that the family came to Wheelock at that time.

Little is known of Samuel Fellows, Jr., aside from what different records disclose, and even these are, in places, difficult to unravel, as the two Samuels are confused, or, at least, not distinguished carefully.

It is evident that he was a man of ability, for he is recorded as "Esq.", a title used to designate a man of local consequence. At the July Fourth Celebration in 1812, he read the Declaration of Independence and delivered "an appropriate and patriotic oration, which did honor to the orator and the occasion," at the meeting house on the hill.

The family lived in School District No. 3 and as late as 1834 children of Samuel Fellows, Jr. appear on the list.

Mr. Fellows was often elected to town office. In 1801 he was elected first auditor, which would indicate that, although a newcomer to town, he made a favorable impression. The next year he was elected chairman of a committee to "immediately call upon all former Selectmen and Constables for a settlement." The report of the committee was adopted and so recorded. He was a deputy sheriff in 1805; selectman 1813-1814; moderator in 1814; lister in 1817-18; town representative in 1807, 1813, 1816 and 1817; a member of the Constitutional Conventions of 1814-22-28. In 1815 he was appointed one of a committee of three "to lay out and survey a market road from St. Johnsbury Plain to Barton." This refers to the road near the Nehemiah Phillips place, later owned by George Nelson. Others on the committee were Joseph Armington and James Kelsey.

The dates of the birth and death of Samuel Fellows, Jr. are unknown, as well as all facts concerning his family.

#### COL. EDWARD FIFIELD

The son of Samuel Fifield, one of the original landholders in Wheelock, whose "pitch lots" were No. 132 and No. 133 (later the N. Youngman farm in the Sherburne Neighborhood), was born in Gilmanton, N. H. Dec. 21, 1775. Samuel Fifield came from a family of loyal military service and he lived in East Kingston and Gilmanton, N. H., before coming to Vermont after the close of the Revolutionary War in which he saw service. His second wife was Ruth Brown and Edward was their third child and second son. He probably came with his father first to Norwich, Vt. and then to Wheelock in 1796. About 1800 he married Sarah Bean, daughter of Col. John Bean. In 1806 the latter conveyed his Wheelock property to his son-in-law, and Fifield continued to run the inn under the new name, Fifield's Tavern. After his service as Lt. Col. in the War of 1812, he, his wife and six children moved to Conneaut, Ohio. There five more children were born to them. Col. Fifield died Oct. 17, 1836. His wife died April 23, 1863.

While a resident of Wheelock, Col. Fifield served as Town Representative to the Assembly in 1809-1810.



## ABNER MORRILL

He was the son of Laban and Sarah (Ames) Morrill. He was born April 11, 1769 in Canterbury, N. H. and died in Wheelock May 11, 1851. He married Aug. 11, 1797 Mary Carpenter and they had thirteen children. He appears in the Danville town records in 1788, removing to Wheelock ten years later for he was elected a highway surveyor in the latter place in 1799. He was prominent in town affairs for more than thirty years.

He was selectman 1803-04, 1813, 1816, 1818-19, 1822-23, 1825-26, 1829-30; moderator 1804, 1816, 1822-27, and 1829-31; town representative 1811, 1815, 1818-1819, 1822, 1824-25 and 1828-29-30. In term of service as town representative, he equalled that of his uncle, Abraham Morrill.

## ELIJAH SARGEANT

The Sargeant family came from Canterbury, N. H. and at least four of its members appear in the early records—Dominicus, Elijah, Ezra and Samuel. Samuel and Elijah were brothers, while Dominicus and Ezra were sons of Samuel.

Elijah was the son of Aaron Sargeant of Canterbury, N. H. and was born about 1766. March 21, 1795 he married Abiah Foster of Danville, Vt. He had eight children: John, Charles, Susan, Hollis, Abiah, Ruth, Harriet and Eliza.

He served as selectman 1806-08 and was town representative in 1814. He died in Dalton, N. H.

## ISRAEL PORTER

Israel Porter and his brother, Abijah, came from Danvers, Mass. about 1801. Israel was born in Danvers March 27, 1773 and died in Wheelock March 28, 1842. He married Sally, daughter of Philip and Eunice Nourse of Danvers. They had ten children: Hulda, Rebecca, Thomas Jefferson, Sally, Roxanna, Benjamin, Clarissa, James Smith, Hannah and Esther. He held several minor town offices and was town representative in 1820-21, 1823, and in 1831.

## JOSIAH LANE

He was the son of John and Hannah Lane and was born in Candia, N. H. Aug. 15, 1781. On Oct. 11, 1807 he married Phoebe Morrill, daughter of Abraham and Sarah (Hoyt) Morrill. They had

ten children: Hannah, Abraham, Rinaldo, Sarah, Benjamin F., Lucilla, Josiah Milton, Judith G., Mary and Lyria M.

He was selectman 1815; town clerk 1816-1836; constable and collector 1813; lister 1816-1818; town representative 1826-27. He seems to have left Wheelock about 1837.

## BENJAMIN CONNER

Joseph Conner came from Barrington, N. H. and took the Freeman's Oath before John Bean, J. P. in 1794 or 1795. He moved to Sheffield about 1801 but returned to Wheelock about 1830 and died in town Sept. 20, 1837. It is presumed that he was the father of Benjamin Conner, better known as "Judge" Conner.

Benjamin Conner was born Nov. 24, 1782 and died Aug. 5, 1865. He is buried in the Ingalls Cemetery, Sheffield. His first wife, Jemima, was born March 17, 1784 and died Oct. 30, 1820. He married as second wife, Thankful Ingalls. He had seven children by his first wife and four by his second. He represented Sheffield in 1820. Later he removed to Wheelock where he was moderator 1833-834 and 1840-45; town representative from 1832-35; Assistant Judge 1835-37. He died at the home of his son, John, in Craftsbury, Vt.

## WILLIAM SANBORN

The Sanborn family came from Sanbornton, N. H. and among those in Wheelock in the early days were John, who took the Freeman's Oath in 1794 or 1795; Jonathan Hobbs Sanborn, who was elected a member of a committee of seven to vendue the meeting house pews Nov. 29, 1796; Elisha, taxed in 1799; Jonathan, who voted in 1804; Daniel and Thomas Sanborn, taxed in 1815. At the time of the sale of the meeting house pews, Jonathan Hobbs Sanborn bought a pew for \$33, which was higher than the average bid on that day.

John Sanborn, the first child born in Sanbornton on July 12, 1766, was a school teacher and married Delia Miles.

William Sanborn, who was the Wheelock representative, was the son of Elisha and Agnes (Moore) Sanborn and was born in Wheelock Nov. 18, 1800 and died Feb. 22, 1877. He was married Nov. 23, 1825 to Mary Page of Wheelock by Josiah Lane, J. P. They had ten children:

Emily, Edwin, George, Caroline, Alden, Roswell, Judith Ann, George 2d, William and Mary.

He was selectman in 1838 and town representative in 1836 and 1838.

#### ELDER JONATHAN NELSON

He was born in Barnstead, N. H. in 1777, the son of Samuel and Abigail (Tingley) Nelson. He died Nov. 26, 1843. He paid a tax in town in 1799 and for the remainder of his life was identified with Wheelock. He lived on the road from Wheelock village to Sutton. He married, at the age of twenty-five, Betsey Collins, who died Feb. 21, 1850, aged 66. They had nine children: Orrin, Samuel A., Hannah, Abigail, Jonathan, Jr., Betsey, Rhoda, Mary Jane and George.

Jonathan Nelson is to be remembered chiefly for his work as a minister. He was ordained by the Wheelock Quarterly Meeting in 1819. He preached at South Wheelock about 1827-32 and at Wheelock Hollow 1836-41 and 1843-54. He often held minor town offices and represented the town in 1837.

#### SAMUEL BIGELOW

Ephraim Bigelow was taxed in Wheelock in 1816 and was elected a highway surveyor the same year, and again in 1819. He was born in Westminster, Mass. Aug. 8, 1761. He died in Wheelock Dec. 13, 1835. He married Dec. 15, 1786 Lydia Johnson. He served in the Revolutionary War, as did his father, Elisha Bigelow.

Among the nine children of Ephraim Bigelow was Samuel, born May 15, 1799 and died July 22, 1880. He married Jan. 1, 1827 Sally, daughter of Elisha and Elizabeth (Roberts) Davis. They had Calvin D. and Lydia E. The family moved to Lyndon about 1844. Samuel was moderator in Wheelock in 1832 and 1843; selectman, 1838-40; town representative 1839-40. He lived on the cross road from James Horn's to the old Emerson place.

#### EDWARD MOULTON MAGOON

He was the son of Capt. Edward Magoon and Jehosheba (Bude) Magoon and was born in Acton, Me. June 13, 1798. He died in Wheelock Mar. 20, 1882. On Feb. 27, 1820 he married Roxanna, daughter of Israel and Sally (Nourse) Porter.

They had eleven children, among whom was Israel Porter Magoon.

Edward M. Magoon was very prominent in town affairs for many years. He was selectman 1839-42, 1844, 1846, 1850 and 1864; town representative 1841, 1850-51; a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1843. He lived in the Sherburn neighborhood on Lot No. 101, where the first settlement in town had been made by Joseph Page.

#### HIEL BRADLEY

He was the son of Ward and Hannah (Nutting) Bradley. One of six children, he was born in Wheelock Nov. 4, 1805 and died Oct. 29, 1850. He married March 22, 1827 Caroline, daughter of Jacob and Judith (Carter) Page. Their children were Ward 2nd, Horace, Mary and Warren. For many years he was a merchant at Wheelock Hollow, being associated with his father, Squire Bradley, and his brother, Sewall. He was too much occupied with his business to give much time to town affairs. He was somewhat active in school matters in District No. 4. He was moderator 1839; town treasurer 1833-43, succeeding his father in that office; town representative 1842.

#### SEWALL BRADLEY

Sewall Bradley was born in Wheelock Oct. 14, 1803 and died in Lyndon Center, Vt. Sept. 8, 1885. He was the son of Ward and Hannah Bradley. He married first Eliza, daughter of John and Betsey (Carter) Chase, on March 14, 1827. His second marriage was on Nov. 14, 1844 to Sally, daughter of James Townsend, whose father, Thomas Townsend, was a Revolutionary soldier and early settler of Wheelock.

Sewall was in the mercantile business in both Sheffield and Wheelock and was prominent in town affairs of each. He represented Sheffield in 1833, 1865 and 1866; represented Wheelock in 1843 and 1844. He was Caledonia County Senator in 1847; Wheelock selectman 1827, 1830, 1844, 1845, and 1854; town treasurer, 1844-45.

#### NATHANIEL HART, JR.

Nathaniel Hart, Sr. was in Wheelock before 1808. He was born March 10, 1776 and died



March 30, 1860. He married May 31, 1797 Joanna, daughter of Benjamin and Zerviah Matthews of Danville. Among their eight children was Nathaniel, Jr., born Sept. 14, 1805 and died Sept. 21, 1866. He married Louise N. Lampher of Waterbury, Vt. and they had five children; William, Vienna, Joanna, Caroline and John.

Nathaniel Hart, Jr. was selectman 1845-47; town representative 1845 and 1847; and also held many other town offices.

#### RICHARD STEVENS

Very little is known of Richard Stevens except the date of his death Oct. 11, 1846, aged 62 years, 8 months. His wife's name was Abigail. She died April 13, 1872, aged 85 years, 2 months. Their daughter, Sophia, married Lyman Way Feb. 19, 1832. He was selectman 1827-28; town representative 1846. He lived in "Piperville."

#### THOMAS JEFFERSON CREE

Thomas Jefferson Cree was born Oct. 28, 1806 and died in Wheelock Nov. 9, 1880. He married Jan. 1, 1834 Ann Stone and on the same day took his bride from Cabot to Wheelock where he built a home, being a carpenter and joiner by trade.

He was moderator from 1858-69 and again from 1872-77; lister 1858, 1865 and 1874; town treasurer, 1859-1866; town agent 1859-63, and 1865-66-72. He represented the town 1848 and 1849; was Assistant Judge 1848-49-50-51; member of the Constitutional Convention 1857; and Caledonia County Senator 1862-63.

#### CHARLES ROGERS, JR.

Charles Rogers came to Wheelock about 1828 from Alton, N. H. and settled on a farm in the south part of town. He and his wife had nine children, the seventh of whom was Charles, Jr. He married first Mary Melvin, daughter of Hiram and Caroline (Bigelow) Melvin, on June 20, 1852. They had four children, Carrie, Susie, Flora and Etta. He married second, June 28, 1905, Mrs. Lydia Bigelow Buell, widowed cousin of his first wife. She died in Lyndonville in 1907.

In his early life Mr. Rogers taught school winters, after receiving his own schooling at District No. 1 in South Wheelock and at Lyndon Academy. He

was a town surveyor and a Justice of the Peace for over fifty years. Besides holding town and county offices, he was a trustee of the State Reform School. Often called "Judge" after his term of Assistant Judge in 1868-70, Charles Rogers was one of the strongest men identified with the town of Wheelock. In the Civil War days and the years immediately after he was a powerful figure.

He was town representative 1852, 1853, 1854, 1861-1863, 1878-1880, and 1888. He was selectman 1849-52, 1861-63, 1865-1867; moderator 1868, 1870-71; town clerk and treasurer 1873-1893.

#### CALVIN CHASE

He was the son of John and Betsey (Carter) Chase. John Chase had come to Wheelock from Boscawen, N. H. and had soon set up in the cloth dressing and carding mill business, also keeping tavern at his house, which formerly stood on the other side of the road from its present location. (Dewey Deos present owner) Calvin, one of five children, was born in Wheelock March 4, 1809 and died Jan. 16, 1892. He married on Jan. 4, 1831 Velinda, daughter of Walter and Mehitabel (Venen) Hoyt. They had three children, Fanny M., William Alonzo, and Walter Hoyt Chase. Calvin lived for many years opposite the village store of that time. He was rather prominent in town affairs, especially during the Civil War years. He was selectman 1851, 1856-57, 1862-64; moderator, 1862; town representative, 1855.

#### WILLIAM CHASE

He was a brother of Calvin Chase and lived on the first farm south of the village on the road to Lyndon. He was born Aug. 29, 1812 and died at Loon Lake, N. Y. July 25, 1897 at the home of his son, Ferdinand W. Chase. He married June 12, 1838 Fanny Harriett Randall, daughter of Job and Irene (Sayles) Randall. Their other children were Annie Ellen, Abbie Sayles, and Lucina W. Chase.

William Chase was active in town affairs and, according to his son, was one of a small company of men who met to organize the Republican Party in Vermont. He was selectman 1840-41 and 1843; moderator, 1881; town clerk 1854-1872; town treasurer 1867-1872; town representative 1856-57; Assistant County Judge, 1858-1860. He also held other offices in the town and school District No. 4.

## ALBERTUS ALLEN

He was grandson of John Allen, a Revolutionary soldier who settled on Lot No. 1 as early as 1799. Among the children of John Allen was Samuel, who married Deborah Woodman, a sister of Elder Jonathan Woodman. Samuel lived on Lot No. 20 in the very northern part of town. One of his nine children was Albertus Allen, born in Wheelock Oct. 2, 1822 and died in Lyndon Oct. 21, 1890. June 14, 1852 he married Frances H. Quimby, daughter of Joseph L. and Elizabeth (Fullington) Quimby. They had three children, Emma, Frank and Hattie. Albertus Allen operated a starch factory at the Hollow. He represented the town in 1858.

## WILLIAM B. JONES

He was one of three brothers, the others being Samuel H. and John. They were sons of Henry Jones of Canterbury, N. H., who came to Wheelock sometime prior to 1816 and settled on Lot No. 66, the first farm on the County road above the present Red Schoolhouse. His wife was Sarah Hazeltine. William, the oldest child, was born May 29, 1811 and died in Wheelock Dec. 4, 1879. He married Jan. 1, 1834 Marcy, (Mercy), daughter of Stephen Smith and Mercy (Payne) Mathewson of Lyndon. They had nine children, William Henry, Sarah, Charles, Daniel S., Stephen M., Sarah 2nd, Martha, Amy, and George A. William, Daniel and Stephen served in the War of the Union.

William B. Jones was selectman 1858-59, 1865 and 1868-71; town representative 1859; often a lister; and a lifelong pound keeper. He was highly respected by his fellow townsmen.

## SAMUEL ALLEN NELSON

He was the son of Elder Jonathan Nelson and Betsey (Collins) Nelson. He was born in Wheelock March 25, 1807 and died in Barton, Vt. May 7, 1896. He married Lucy, daughter of Bradbury Moulton Richardson and Lucy (Lee) Richardson. They had three children, "B. M. R.", Ethan S., and Amy. He lived in the north part of town, first on the Spaulding place and, after his father's death, on the home place.

He was selectman 1844-45, 1852-53, 1859-61; town representative 1860. He taught many terms of school and was in great demand for "difficult" schools.

## OSBORNE WARD

Samuel Ward, one of the original lessees, was probably born in Peabody, Mass. He came to Wheelock from Dublin, N. H. about 1796. He lived first on Lot No. 77, which he sold to Abijah Porter of Danvers, Mass. in 1800 for the sum of \$333.34.

Among the children of Samuel Ward was Samuel Ward, Jr., born in Danvers, Mass. July 17, 1781. He married Tamsen Hall and had eleven children. He later moved to Canada and died there.

Osborne, son of Samuel and Tamsen (Hall) Ward was born in Wheelock March 24, 1816 and died at St. Johnsbury Oct. 12, 1887. He married April 15, 1841 Adeline Larnard of Stannard. While in Wheelock he engaged in the manufacture of threshing machines. In 1870 he removed to St. Johnsbury and was in the lumber and real estate business for many years. He was active in the Freewill Baptist Church and assisted in the erection of their church on Main Street, St. Johnsbury. His wife died Sept. 18, 1912 at the age of 92 years.

Mr. Ward represented the town of Wheelock in 1863 and 1864.

## JONATHAN WOODMAN

Deacon John Woodman, one of the original lessees of Wheelock in 1790, lived near what was later the Henry Hoffman farm, where a granite marker designates the location of his house in the field. His name appears on the New Hampshire Revolutionary War rolls as a corporal, according to family tradition. He died Dec. 7, 1853. He and his first wife, the former Sarah Foy of Strafford, N. H. had seven children, the youngest being Jonathan, who was born in Wheelock March 27, 1798. In 1818 he was ordained an elder in the Freewill Baptist Church and was a prominent and influential figure in this denomination for the rest of his long life. He died in North Tewksbury, Mass. Jan. 18, 1888.

Rev. Jonathan Woodman represented the town of Wheelock in 1865. He had served as chaplain of the Vermont House of Representatives in 1828.

## ELIJAH WILLARD

As early as 1806 the names of Oliver A. Willard and Elijah Willard appear in the town records. They lived where W. J. Aldrich later lived. The



old house stood on the top of the hill in what is now a pasture of the farm of Mrs. Hazel Powers. Oliver left Wheelock in 1816 for Churchville, N. Y., along with the John Hill family of Danville. His brother, Elijah, however, remained in Wheelock. He was born Feb. 7, 1776 and died June 6, 1857. He married June 16, 1807 Nancy Mason of Natick, Mass. One of their children was Elijah, Jr., who was born

June 10, 1810 and died May 7, 1890. He married June 27, 1837 Betsey, daughter of Simeon and Lucy (Chandler) Shattuck. They had no children. After he sold his home farm to Calvin Rogers, he lived in the village next south of the hotel.

He was selectman in 1855-56 and town representative 1866-1868.

## Chapter XI

# Early Roads

"Few realize how much local history is to be found in the road system of a town," wrote O. D. Mathewson. The first settlements were made on the hillsides or hill tops, for the valleys were too wet to cultivate. A small clearing on a hill received more sunlight than one of the same size in a valley. Also, the hill land was better adapted to raising corn and wheat, most essential crops in pioneer days. As the first settlements were on the hills, roads leading to them ran over and along the hills. Wherever a valley road was necessary, it frequently followed along near the foot of the hills, as the valleys were so wet that a road was impossible unless made of poles laid close together. Such roads were called "corduroy" on account of their ribbed surface. Corduroy roads were expensive to build and maintain.

The first roads were little more than trails, marked by blazed trees, and were gradually widened by the use and efforts of the settlers most interested in their improvement. On these early trails, Wheelock settlers had to carry their grain back to Danville, twelve miles, to be ground, just as when first coming to Danville they had had to carry grain back and forth to Peacham. The method was either in a sack over the shoulder, or by hand sled.

In early times, roads were divided into classes: county roads, turnpikes, public highways and pent roads. Wheelock was included in a Turnpike Petition to the General Assembly in 1807. Other towns were Barnet, Peacham, Deweyburg, Hardwick, Walden and Waterford. (*Secretary of State Papers, Montpelier*). Turnpikes were built by associations, or companies, authorized by the Legislature. They were toll roads, taking the name from a gate, or bar, across the road to stop carriages, wagons, animals and people until the fee for the use of the turnpike was paid. There is no record that the Wheelock Turnpike ever materialized.

County roads were probably the most important type of roads, as they connected towns. They were usually four rods wide and ran, as nearly as possible, in straight lines over hill and through dale. They were the main arteries of communication and

the stage routes. Stage coaches carrying mail and passengers stopped at the post offices and the taverns that were along these county roads at convenient distances.

Public highways were usually laid out by the selectmen of the town, either to meet an obvious need of some person or group, or in response to a petition signed by interested parties. Sometimes, in cases of disagreement, a road was laid out by a committee appointed by the County Court.

Branching off from the highways were roads leading to houses established at some distance. Such roads were not fenced, as a rule, and, being closed by bars or a gate, were called "pent roads." It was the ambition of everybody to live on an "open road," as the town maintained them and they were more convenient to use. The change from "pent" to "open" was especially appreciated by boys. They were the ones who usually took down the bars or opened the heavy gate. These gates were surmounted by a long cedar pole, extending several feet beyond the hinge post and weighted down with stones placed in a V-shaped trough. The theory was that such an arrangement made it easier to "swing the pent road gate."

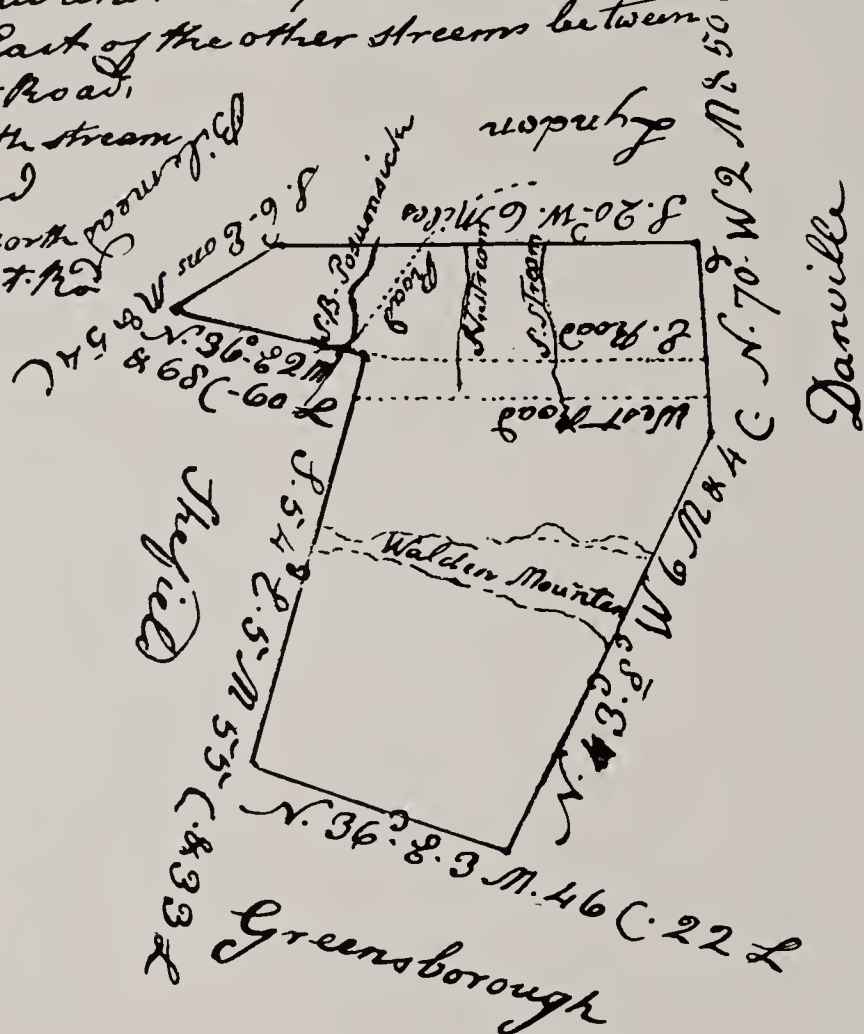
### FIRST ROAD PLANNED

At the first town meeting in Wheelock March 28, 1792, the following action was taken:

Chose Dudley Sweasy, James Glines, David Pillsbury, John Venen and Joseph Venen a committee to look out a road through said town of Wheelock, where it will best convene said town, and to say where and on what road Abraham Morrill shall do the work that he is to do agreeable to an obligation he gave the Honorable John Wheelock, Esq., president of Dartmouth College, respecting cutting roads and building bridges in said town of Wheelock; and furthermore, said committee is to say when said road is done agreeable to said articles, and also to say when the grist-mill and saw-mill that said Morrill is to build in said town are completed agreeably to the conditions of settling the town, which was signed by said Wheelock.



The Road from Lyndon strikes the East Road at the Bridge on the Branch of Possumuck River it then crosses over and in a few rods enters into Sheffield. the West Road enters into Sheffield and in about one mile and half they come together and lead into Barton Road and so on to Mumpthramagoge Lake there is a sawmill and Gristmill on the former Possumuck near where the the East Road and the Lyndon Road meet. and a sawmill on East of the other streams between the East and west Road. the Mill on the south stream is near the East Road and the Mill on the north stream is near the west Road.



A Plan of Wheelock

John Beam } select men  
Abm. Morrill } for  
Wheelock

To James Whitlaw Esq.

At this meeting town highway surveyors were elected, being James Glines, Samuel Sargent, Samuel Leach and Ephraim Niles.

The following year, on Sept. 20, 1793 a petition from the town of Sheffield reached the General Assembly, noting the great want of a road from Wheelock through the towns of Sheffield and Barton to strike "the main road now cut through said Barton." Signers included the familiar Wheelock names of Gideon Leavitt, Joseph Venen, James and Richard Glines, Thomas Dow, Benjamin Noyes, Ichabod Brackett, Dudley Sweasy, Samuel Sargent, etc. (*Vt. State Papers Vol. X, p. 13*)

#### FIRST ROAD MAP OF WHEELOCK

As an outcome of the first town meeting's provision for roads, a report was submitted to the Surveyor-General, James Whitelaw, by Col. John Bean and Abraham Morrill. (*Surveyor-General's Papers Vol. II, p. 71*) This was probably in 1794, as both Bean and Morrill were selectmen in that year.

A plan accompanying the report shows two parallel roads crossing the town north and south between the Danville town line and the Sheffield line. These are marked East Road and West Road respectively.

The report reads:

The road from Lyndon strikes the east road at the bridge on the branch of the Passumpsic River; it then crosses over and in a few rods enters into Sheffield and in about a mile and a half they come together and lead into the Barton road and so on to Memphremagog Lake. There is a sawmill and a gristmill on the Passumpsic near where the Lyndon road meets and a sawmill on each of the other streams between the East and West roads. The mill on the South stream is near the East road and the mill on the north stream is near the West road.

Plan of Wheelock John Bean ) Selectmen  
Abrm Morrill ) for

To James Whitelaw, Esq.

The West road entered Wheelock from North Danville by way of the Shattuck Neighborhood, continuing north through what was later called South Wheelock, Ramsay Corners, and then past the Morgan Neighborhood on into Sheffield.

The East road led from Wheelock Hollow bridge above the upper dam past the Joshua Weeks (Charles Rogers) place, thence through the Rogers pasture until it came into the present Danville road

above the John Sanborn place. Then it followed the course of the present road over the hills to Chandler Pond and on south to the Danville town line. It was for the most part laid out on the range line between lots and was a straight line through the town.

The road from Lyndon, shown on this early plan, entered the town of Wheelock near the George Nelson place, formerly owned by Nehemiah Phillips, and followed what is now an "old road no longer used" to a point where the bridge crosses the stream near James Rock's (formerly George Heath's blacksmith shop). The early Lyndon road, however, did not cross the stream but followed along Miller's Run, past where the old tannery stood and through the old mill yard, until it crossed the East road near the bridge above the upper dam.

It is difficult now to locate many of the old roads that were laid out as the population of the town grew and new roads were demanded by settlers who crowded into Wheelock in its first twenty years. Where there had been only four highway surveyors elected at the first town meeting, by that of 1810 there were twenty-two surveyors needed.

The trees that generally formed the "points of beginning" for the survey of these old roads have decayed and the homes they were designed to serve have long since become cellar holes or been entirely obliterated. But highway records show some of the early roads, all recorded March 1, 1811 by A. Morrill, Town Clerk (It may be that these are copied from earlier records, as Abraham Morrill was town clerk in the years the surveys were made, but not in 1811.)

#### EARLY ROADS

WHEELOCK June 17th 1795 Return of a highway laid out and Surveyed this day beginning at a Maple tree Standing on the Lyndon line which is the bounds between Lots No. 12 & 13 thence turning West 20 North 516 rods on the line between the lots North west & South West till it comes to the Corner of Lots 80 . . . to be three rods wide half of said land to be on one and half on the other side of the Lots line.

Abm. Morrill

Selectmen

William Guy

Return of a road laid out in WHEELOCK 1795, beginning at the Southeast Corner of lot No. 63 thence westerly on the South Side of sd.



lot thence west 20 North 100 rods thence South 88 west 30 rods thence west 89 North 42 rods to the North and South road line between lots No. 64 and 89, then beginning at the corner between lots No. 87 & 88 on said North and South road thence west 20 d. North Half mile & forty rods, thence West to the road, thence west 50 rods North 86 rods to the line between lots No. 11 & 18. Said road to be three rods wide, one half to be taken off of one side and the other half off the other side June 29th 1795 archalous Miles Surveyor.

Abm. Morrill

Selectmen

Amos Sawyer

WHEELOCK July 30 1796

Highway laid out from Lyndon to Sheffield beginning at a Maple tree Standing on the Lyndon line which is the Northeast Corner bound of Lot No. 13 in Wheelock and the North Line of Lot No. 13, thence taking the whole of the Road on the North side of sd. line and turning west 20 North one hundred, thence turning west 40 North 240 rods, thence north 20 East 20 rods, thence north 40 rods to South bank of the West Branch of the Pasompsech River, thence north 18 east acrost Said River 20 rods thence north 20 rods, thence north 10 east 14 Rods to the Sheffield line Survey and laid out by

John Bean

Selectmen

Abm. Morrill

Also in the year 1795 a petition to the General Assembly, meeting October 2, was sent by the town of Greensboro for aid to build a road communicating with Wheelock, "altho the settlements are so considerable in each, especially the latter, the distance is but about seven miles." (*Vt. State Papers Vol. X, p. 121*)

Sometime later this need was satisfied by a road over the mountain from Wheelock by way of Ramsay Corner, Piperville, Southmayde Hill and West Wheelock. A part of the western section of the township was also traversed by a road along the Lamaille River.

On Oct. 9, 1797 a Memorial from the Town of Barnet was sent to the General Assembly regarding a three cent highway tax for improving roads in that town connecting with other towns. Barnet resented the pressure being put upon it, it felt, by these "other towns." It petitioned to be allowed to administer its own highway monies as it saw fit. Barnet commented, "we have not yet heard what great things are to be had, or done, at WHEELOCK,

that we must make two good post roads through our town to it . . ." (*Secretary of State Papers, Montpelier*) No wonder the rapid settlement of Wheelock was noted with astonishment by surrounding towns. From 1790 to 1810 the population jumped from 33 to 568.

### THE COUNTY ROAD

Oct. 31, 1799 the Governor and Council concurred in a bill passed by the General Assembly at Windsor authorizing and "directing the laying out and making a County road from the south line of Wheelock in Caledonia County to the south line of Stanstead in Canada and taxing sundry towns through which the same shall pass." (*Gov. and Council Vol. IV pp. 242-243, 285*)

This was a real triumph for the present and prospective settlers of Wheelock. County roads were by far the most important of all classes. They made recognition of the fact that towns must be connected by something better than the haphazard trails of the pioneers. In Wheelock the County road was laid out by a committee, composed of Timothy Hinman, John Bean and Timothy Stanley. It was six rods wide and the survey cost \$10.25. It was apparently designed to be the boulevard of the town and followed essentially the West road laid out five years earlier.

It was along the County road that the cemetery was placed on land given by Abner Hoyt in 1803. Where the road crossed the North stream was the favorite waterpower site for sawmill, gristmill and potato whiskey distillery. On this road the first schoolhouse was built; the town pound enclosed; the meetinghouse, the Dartmouth College storehouse, the parade ground and tavern, the first store, all located to serve the public needs of the growing community. The County road was the stage route from Haverhill, N. H. and the Vermont towns of Newbury, Ryegate, Peacham, Danville, on north to the Canadian line at Derby.

In addition to the County road, the old East road and the first road from Lyndon to Wheelock Hollow, other town highways were being laid out all the time. A so-called Middle road went from the Hollow past the John Sanborn place, by the Banks and Melvin farms and over the hill to the present Red Schoolhouse, where it joined the County road. This is still kept in good repair for travel today. Another road ran from the John Sanborn

place to join the County road at the Stephen Morgan place. This road is also used today and continues by the old county road down into Sheffield village.

A third road from North Danville led into Wheelock near lot No. 75, originally owned by Joseph Venen, just west of the Obil Shattuck holdings on the County road. This road went westerly and north by the B. F. Noyes place, the James Horn burying ground, the McGovern, or Mountain, School, and crossed the Mountain stream to the Sherburn neighborhood. Also a road connected the Venen lot with those of the two Shattuck families and John Allen, following closely the Danville town line in an easterly direction.

From Lyndon, in addition to the first road beginning at the Nehemiah Phillips place, there was a road reaching Wheelock Hollow on the east side. This left Lyndon in the Squabble Hollow section, passed the Smith P. Mathewson place, thence over the Wheelock line, past the Woodman (Hoffman) farm and the Thomas Mathewson place at the corner with the Sutton road. It eventually went by the Elijah Willard (Calvin Brown, Aldrich) farm and continued into Sheffield at the Ingalls place. This was sometimes called a county road, as it joined three towns.

A road once joined the Thomas Mathewson farm with that of Philip Mathewson and entered the village in back of the present schoolhouse. This was not used much after the present road to Sutton was built up the hill and through the woods from the Hollow. As the old road continued past the Philip Mathewson farm it passed the McQuillan house and shop, Quaker Dow's, Smith Mathewson and Peter Woodman farms in Squabble Hollow, and then turned left by the Eastman farms in Lyndon (F. W. C.)

Roads from Sutton included the present highway, also one from Whipple's Mill that ran through the Green neighborhood, past Jacob Sulloway's (later Eli Hammond and Scruton) on past the crossing of the Follett and Samuel Allen road, coming to join the present highway at the Thomas Mathewson place. Another Sutton road traversed Mathewson Hill area and is marked by at least six cellar holes of homes of now forgotten settlers, according to O. D. Mathewson's records. Much of this area is now included in the Mathewson State Forest, for which O. D. Mathewson gave two parcels of forest land. One of the cellar holes marked the home of Oliver

Atherton Willard, grandfather of Miss Frances E. Willard.

Between these main highways were roads that served the various farms, seeming to criss-cross the whole eastern section of the township. With such rapid increase of settlers as took place in the first twenty years, it is not surprising that in 1806 the Town of Wheelock petitioned the General Assembly for a land tax to reach non-resident land owners, in order that the inhabitants might get better roads. Abraham Morrill was Wheelock town representative. The petition was read October 14 in Middlebury, giving this further information, "by reason of the thinness of the settlement and the neglect of the landlords, the maintenance of the roads was a hardship." . . . etc. (*Gov. and Council Vol. V p. 108*)

Roads were a touchy subject, for Wheelock lessees and Dartmouth College alike. The above seemingly innocent request precipitated a law suit to test the validity of the half-interest in Wheelock lands held by Moors Charity School. Dartmouth College's equity in the other half of the township was not disputed, but John Wheelock, president of both institutions, felt personally hurt by this road petition, as a father might be hurt by the ingratitude of his children. (*Observation on Facts*)

Although the first major business activities and town buildings were along the County road, houses and industries sprang up around the sawmill and gristmill built by Joshua Weeks at Wheelock Hollow. Oct. 22, 1829 a petition was presented to the road commissioner of Caledonia County requesting him to lay out what is now known as the river road from Sheffield Hollow through Wheelock Hollow and on to Jacob Welch's in Lyndon.

This road was laid out Nov. 28, 1829. However records indicate, wrote O. D. M. in later years, that the voters of the town as a whole did not approve of this action, for at the town meeting March 9, 1830 it was

VOTED to dispense with the article in the warrant respecting raising anything to build or make the road newly laid out through Wheelock Hollow.

Again at a special town meeting held Aug. 23, 1830, it was

VOTED to pass over the hollow road.



## WHELOCK VILLAGE ESTABLISHED

It is conceivable that the settlers and businessmen along the County road and the East road were the most outspoken objectors. Their voting strength was firm in the negative. But times were changing. Those at Wheelock Hollow were putting on airs. The selectmen received a petition and made reply on June 11, 1830.

WE the undersigners, Selectmen of the Town of Wheelock, application having been made to us by more than fifteen of the freeman inhabitants of said town to lay out and establish a Village in Wheelock Hollow, agreeably to an act to restrain certain animals from running at large within Villages in this State, hereby lay out and establish a Village in Wheelock Hollow in said town agreeably to said act, bounded as follows, beginning at the guide post north of the gristmill, thence to extend towards Lyndon to the guide post east of the Meeting house, thence to the bridge that crosses the river on the road toward Philip McGaffey's, thence to the top of the hill against Ward Bradleys orchard on the road toward William Grays.

David Darling

Jonathan Taylor Selectmen

Dated Wheelock, June 1, 1830

## SMART ANIMALS

What the ambitious inhabitants of Wheelock Hollow had been unable to do for themselves in earlier years, their now "restrained animals" evidently had accomplished for them.

In town meeting March 6, 1832 it was

VOTED to raise one hundred and fifty dollars to be paid in labour and laid out on a highway from Sheffield line through Wheelock hollow to Lyndon line to be done in the month of June next.

CHOSE William Sanborn to collect said tax and to superintend the making of the road.

Dudley Clark, Charles Mathewson and Elisha Davis were selectmen at that time.

Since the General Assembly had refused to take action on Wheelock's 1806 petition for a land tax, the upkeep of its roads fell to the settlers themselves. Rate Bills were issued yearly by the selectmen to the highway surveyors elected at the March Meeting. The tax was based on the grand list of the previous year. At first, ratebills were written out in full by hand, but before 1818 blanks were printed, to be filled in by the selectmen. Below is a rate bill print-

ed by the neighboring printer, Ebenezer Eaton of Danville:

STATE OF VERMONT)  
Caledonia County ss )

To Calvin Chase one of the SURVEYORS  
OF HIGHWAYS in Wheelock  
in said County . . . Greetings

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF VERMONT, YOU ARE hereby commanded to collect of the several persons named in the within tax bill (inhabitants of said Wheelock) the sums annexed to their names, in money or labour, and to cause the same to be laid out in making and repairing the roads and bridges within the limits hereinafter described, namely: You are to begin at the line of land owned by Eli Eastman thence to the Hollow, also to begin at the Lyndon line near Stephen Hosmer's and thence on the river road to the Sheffield line and on the road leading from Wheelock to the Lyndon Line by Philip McGaffey's, and also on the road from the saw-mill to Sheffield line near William Young's and other roads as usual. Two thirds of which to be collected and laid out as aforesaid, between the first day of May and the first day of July next; and the remainder between the first day of September and the first day of November next. For labor per day, you are to allow as follows, viz: If done between the first of said May and the first of said July, at the rate of ten CENTS per hour. If done between the first of September and the said first of November, seven CENTS per hour; for extraordinary labor, if done between the first day of July and the first day of September ten CENTS per hour; if done between the first day of November and the first day of May, seven CENTS per hour; for a yoke of oxen, two-thirds the sum allowed to a man for work done at the same time; for a cart and plough in proportion, and if damage to be made good, and if any person or persons shall refuse, or neglect, to pay said sum or sums in money or labour as aforesaid, you are to proceed with him, or them, as the law directs . . . Hereof fail not, and make Due return of this bill, with your doings thereon, to the Selectmen of said Wheelock in the month of April next, according to law.

Dated at Wheelock in said County this  
22nd day of April A. D. 1833

Jonathan Taylor Justice Peace

E. Eaton, Printer, Danville, Vt.

This rate bill shows who lived in Wheelock Hollow in 1833.

results and a revelation of the character and characteristics of the man working out his road tax. Some worked, others loafed, and the loafers usually cursed the surveyor because he did not make better roads. A model worker was Hazen M. Gray. Space forbids naming the loafers. (O. D. M.) . . . . .

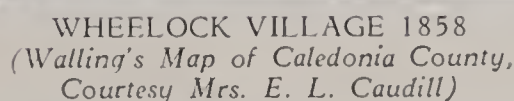
Interest in roads was not confined to the early days of Wheelock as shown by this entry in Thomas Chandler's diary:

# THE MOUNTAIN ROAD

Doubtless many voters felt that the old road through Piperville to Greensboro sufficed, as travelers could turn left from it past Flagg Pond and reach Stannard without much trouble.

However, the Mountain Road supporters won out in time. By 1869 the road was completed by Horace C. Goss. It is now the main road west out of Wheelock. All the farms formerly served by the Greensboro road have disappeared into brush. The road itself is impassable, except for a short distance at either end.

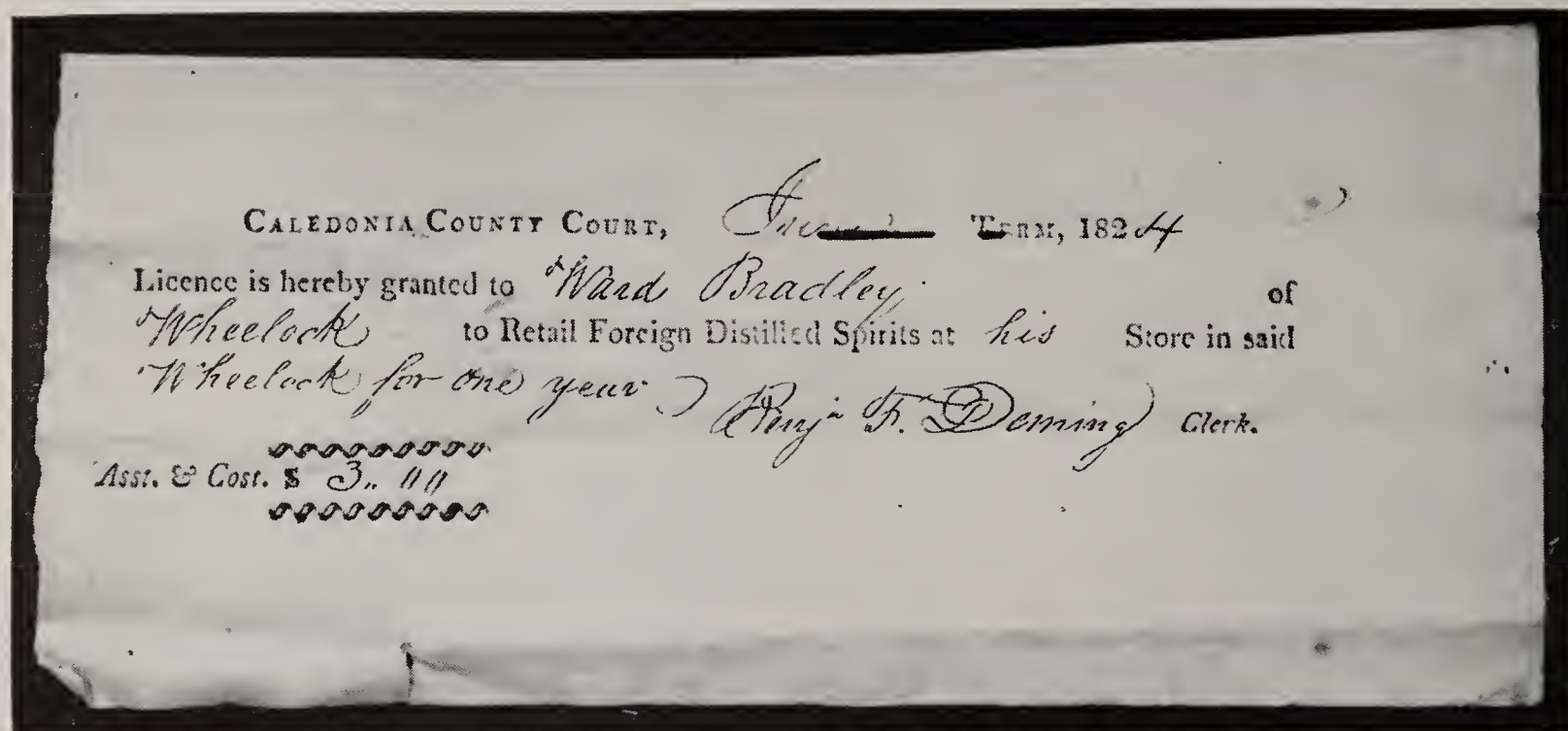
Under the district system there was a great variety of roads. Highway surveyors had different ideas of how roads ought to be repaired. Working on the road was a test of the surveyor's ability to get





# Chapter XII

## Country Store



Ward Bradley opened the first store in Wheelock in 1800. He chose a spot on the County Road, the first thoroughfare in town, and it is supposed that the store stood across the road from the old Nathaniel Morgan place that later burned. Bradley may have lived in the house later occupied by Jesse G. Gray and Jonas Folsom.

Ward Bradley was born in Haverhill, Mass. on Sabbath Day Feb. 16, 1772, the son of Jonathan and Hannah (Hazelton) Bradley. Jonathan Bradley had been a soldier in the Revolutionary War and had ten children, two of whom, Ward and Jonathan, Jr. moved to Wheelock. As early as 1804 the family joined them, coming from Claremont, N. H., where they had been living since October 1790. Ward ran a cooperage business while in Claremont.

### REST ASSURED

About this time, Mar. 24, 1794 in fact, Bradley wrote in his diary:

I received 1 feather bed, 1 quilt, 1 blanket, 1 bedsted, 1 piller, 1 rope of Mrs. Kirtland. Paid Mrs. Kirtland two Dollars for the use of the bed 1 year.

Given up to Mrs. Kirtland her bed

March 24, 1797

After leaving Claremont, Ward Bradley clerked in the store of Daniel Cooke of Cookville, a part of

the town of Corinth, Vt. It was Mr. Cooke who helped him set up in business in Wheelock, by underwriting his first bill of goods from a Boston firm. He also completed the stock with items from his own store, taking Bradley's note for same.

The inventory of the first Boston shipment of store goods to Wheelock follows:

Boston 27th Oct. 1800

Mr. Daniel Cook for Ward Bradley

Bt. of Sam'l Terry

			L.	s.	d
4 Ps Baize		80/	16	0	0
1 Ps Mixd Coattg	24 1/4 yd.	7/6	8	3	10
1 Ps White Flannell		96/	4	16	—
1 Ps Yellow Do		112/	5	12	—
1 Ps Plain	30 1/2 yd	4/4	6	12	2
1 Ps Do	34 yd.	6/	10	4	—
1 Ps Elastick	24 yd.	8/8	10	8	—
1 Ps Do	24 yd.	8/	9	12	—
1 Ps Brd Cloth	20 yd.	12/8	12	13	4
3 Ps India Cotton		18/	2	14	—
3 Ps Do		36/	5	8	—
4 doz soap		5/	1	0	0
1 doz Worsted Hose		52/	2	12	—
12 Pr 6 Qr Blanquits		15/	9	—	—
1 doz Bed Cords		27/	1	7	—
1 Rm Wrappg Paper		5/		5	—
1 do Writing Do		20/	1	0	—
1 Gro Kns & forks		24/	2	14	—
1/2 Gro . . . Do		72/	1	16	—
1 doz brass ball'd Candlesticks		10/6	10		6
1 doz Latches ea	7/1, 8/ & 9/		1	4	—
1/2 doz hammers		18/		9	—
1 doz Tapes ea	7/6 & 9/		16		6

1 Ps Ribbon ea	6/ & 6/9	12	9
1 Card Steel Knee buck's	15/	15	—
1 tr Knitting Pins	2/	2	—
1 tr Chapple Needles	12/	12	—
2 hund Darners	1/6	3	—
2 M 14 oz. Tacks	2/10	5	8
½ Gro Steel Thimbleles	8/	4	—
1 Gro brass Do	7/6	7	6
1 doz horn Combs ea	2/9 & 6/	8	9
1 doz pack's Knf. ea	7/ & 12/	19	—
1 doz pen knives ea	9/ & 10/6	19	6
1 doz Raisors	15/	15	—
4 Gro Vest Buttons	4/6	18	—
1 Gro . . . . Do	7/	7	—
1 Gro Coat Do 7/—3 Gro Do	7/6	1	9 6
1 Gro Do ea 15/—3 Gro Do	16/6	1	11 6
1 Gro Screws ea 2/6 & 3/4		5	10
1 Doz Brass Cocks	27/	1	7 —
1 Doz Stp hinges ea	14/6 & 16/6	1	11 —
6 Doz Nail Gimblets	2/	12	—
2 Doz Websters 1st Readers	10/6	1	1 —
3 Doz Primers	2/3	6	9
1 Doz Websters 3d Readers	21/	1	1 0
		131	12 1

Corinth 15th Nov. 1800  
Rend. pay by Note of hand

Dan'l Cook

From his own stock, Daniel Cooke sold these items to Ward Bradley

Corinth 13th  
Nov. 1800

Mr. Ward Bradley Bot. of )  
Daniel Cooke )

			Cents
1 hhd W. I. Rum	125 Gall at 7/3	\$151	4
1 Box Chocolate	50 lb. 29 cts Nov. 25	14	75
1 Cag tobacco	130 lbs 14 cts	18	20
1 Cask 10 D Cutt Mails		23	06
2 Barrells N. E. Rum	64 Gall at 4/1	45	57
2 Barrells for Do		2	00
1 Barrell Brandy	32 Gall 7/6	40	63
1 Barrell for Do		1	00
80 lb. tea	at 37	30	72
20 lb. Pepper	40	8	00
20 Spice	16	3	20
1 Barrill for tea			25
Copperass 0.3.10	50	3	90
1 Bag for Do			25
2 lb. Indigo	7	3	00
1 Keg		1	50
32 Lb. Cotten	43	13	76
18 lb. loaf sugar	26	4	68
1 Cask at Terry		1	50
37¼ lb. sugar	8½	4	29
Keg			40
2 Bundles No 30 pins		3	00
2 Bundles No 4 pins		3	17
1 Gro Qu. . .		1	66
1 Gro Shoe Binding		1	00
2 Gro 26 white thread	at 20	1	92
¼ ea (of six kinds of thread)		2	47
3 Shawles		2	08
3 Do		2	21
3 Do		2	50
Silk \$1.99 Twist \$2.50		3	40
1 Dry Barrill			50
1 bag		1	16
		396	77

1800

Nov 15 Supra Cr.

By the Balance of my note 99 71

299 06

To Cash 6 00

Corinth 15th Nov. Rend pay by Note of hand 303 06  
Daniel Cooke

For fourteen years Ward Bradley was the sole storekeeper in town and his business prospered as the population increased from 568 in 1800 to 964 (its peak) in 1810. It is evident from his account books and correspondence that, after he opened his store, the inhabitants did not lack for most articles available anywhere in the older settlements.

In 1801 Bradley traded with Alanson Tucker and Sewall, & Salisbury, both of Boston. In January of that year he bought "10 Quentals Polluck" of Jonathan Ayer, which he, in turn, had evidently purchased from Jacob Shaefer of Portsmouth, N. H.

In addition to out-of-state suppliers, Bradley bought store goods from Aaron Porter of Danville at least as early as 1806, when Luther Clark of St. Johnsbury was clerking there. Later, Bradley also bought from John and Luther Clark after they had established a store in St. Johnsbury.

By 1808 Bradley had added George Riley, merchant, of Danville to his list of near-by sources and in 1809 he was trading with Phelps & Crossman of Peacham. In 1810 he paid one Isaac Porter for store goods.

As early as 1803 he bought bars of Russian and Swedish iron from the Newton Iron Works, Boston, Mass. and sometime later bought some iron through storekeepers in Bradford, Vt. and Gorham, N. H.

Bradley took an active interest in town affairs but did not neglect his business. He made trips to Boston to personally select goods from agents and merchants there. In 1803 Dr. John Meigs included in his bill to Ward Bradley for professional services this item: "Nov. 16 last to tending yr. Stoar while ye were gone to Boft. \$2.50."

When he had been in town only four years, Bradley was elected a selectman in 1804, showing the confidence of the townspeople in his ability. He was town treasurer from 1816 to 1832; collector of rents for Dartmouth College; aided Boston merchants collect local bills, made out legal papers as a justice of the peace, and, in general, showed himself a useful citizen.

The hopes of the first settlers had centered on making the Ramsay Corner area the commercial



heart of Wheelock, as it was the geographical one. But the Hollow was beginning to flourish around Weeks's mills and in 1818 Ward Bradley found it wiser to move. He bought the store and stock of Clark, Fairbanks & Co., which had been the first store in Wheelock Hollow.

Upon looking over the inventory, Mr. Bradley evidently found that Mr. Fairbanks had not carried "wet goods," deduced O. D. M. in an article for the Vermont Union-Journal of April 6, 1928, for this reporter notes, a week later Mr. Bradley wrote A & N Tucker, Boston, "I find that I am in want of a few more goods such as 1 Berrill N. E. Rum."

In addition to his purchase of rum from distant places, he bought whiskey "sundra times" from Stephen Morgan and other townsfolk. He faithfully paid his liquor license every year, as his customers lived by drinking almost as much as eating and often were rewarded for doing an errand by a sip o' rum. He also bought locally grown and milled flour, or rather took it in trade, and found his source of plows to be Danville and St. Johnsbury, while saddles, bridles and other leather goods came from neighboring sources, too.

In 1827 French & Harvey of Montpelier sold him a stock of shoes. In 1835 and 1839 he bought of Stephen S. Mathewson quantities of sheeting and several hundred pairs of "footings," which Mathewson had evidently contracted for from L. & J. Slater of Smithfield, R. I. This probably marks the time when Arkwright's invention of the power loom at last relieved the housewife of making her own sheets. In 1832 Bradley paid freight on cotton cloth from Franklin, N. H. to one E. B. Chase. In 1829 he bought a rocking chair from Darius Harvey of Barret, also a wash stand and a light stand, all amounting to \$9.

To keep abreast of the news and the market reports, in 1828 Bradley subscribed to the Boston *Times*, a Democratic journal. In the same year he subscribed to the first issue of Dr. Luther Jewett's *Farmer's Herald*, St. Johnsbury, and subsequent issues in the four years of its existence. He then continued with its successor, the *Weekly Messenger and Passumpsic Valley Advertiser*, by Samuel Eaton, Jr., until its demise fifteen months later in 1834.

#### ON SALE

Articles on sale at Bradley's Store in 1818 were selected from its ledger for that year by O. D. M. for

a newspaper account he wrote in 1928, saying "these may be of interest as showing many of the goods sold and afford a basis of comparison with prices today, also changes in the way of living."

	cts.		
American Preceptor (a popular reader used by older pupils)	.42	1 set Beuro Trimmings	1.25
1 lb. tobacco	.42	4 flints	.04
2 lbs. shugar	.34	1 Bandana Hdkf.	\$1.13
1 grindstone 120 lbs.	\$7.20	1 chalk line (double)	.20
1 lb. 10 pw nails	.20	4 yds. calico	\$1.32
6 sheets of paper	.07	2 Bushels wheat	3.50
1 covered	\$8.00	2 Bushels rye	2.00
1 Pair Shoes	\$2.00	one half Bushel Herdsgrass seed	1.00
3½ yds. Factory check	3.25	2 Hoes	\$1.34
1 nutmeg	.10	Three-fourths yd. Millinett	.29
1 clay pipe	.02	1 Bushel peas	1.84
1 lb. Loaf Sugar	.38	Norfolk Door handle	.50
1 lb. cheese	.10	1 Wheel Head	\$1.25
1 lb. raisins	.22	1 Salt Bag	.40
1 cord wood	\$1.00	1 yd. Cambric Black	.95
1 lb. Bohea tea	.50	3 Bushels Oats	\$1.00
1 pair scissors	.34	1 pocket Book	1.00
1 oz. camphor	.25	1 Squire Glass 7x9	.13
1 oz. onion seed	.17	3 yds. wire	.09
1 almanac	.08	1 pair silk gloves	.67
1 Felt Hat	\$1.75	2 one-half yds. Quality	.08
1 pint molasses	.16	1 umbrella	\$1.60
4 needles	.02	1 comb	.09
21 yds. Tow Cloth	\$7.00	1 pair cracked spectacles	.42
¼ lb. Yung Hyson tea	.44	1 pitcher	.13
7 cups and saucers	.29	1 peck beans	.50
2 Brown bowls	.25	1 Bridle	\$1.75
2 Platters	.34	1 Psalm Book	.56
Set Measurers	1.50	One-half lb Ginger	.15
8 Bushels Ashes	1.34	17 lbs veal	.68
1 Bonnet patern	1.28	6 spikes	.06
cream pitcher	.20	1 vest Pattern	.88
1 oz. Picara	.17	1 Bible	\$1.10
1½ bu. Barley	1.13	3 yds Bombasett	2.00
1 lb. Sulphur	.40	2 one-half Thousand shingles	\$3.00
Stick Tape	.17	3 Hymn Books	\$1.60
1 Thimble steel	.06	1 axe halve	.28
1 Rasp	.50	1 one-half whiting	.15
1 chamber pot	.25	1 milk pail	.50
1 lb. shot	.20	1 carving knife	.25
1 side uper Leather	\$3.17	1 oz. Indigo	.30
1 cake soap	.10	1 string Beads	.06
1 meal bag	1.00	1 mouse trap	.13
Snuff box & snuff	.12	1 Doctor Meigs Book	.13
1 saw mill File	.62	1 row pins	.01
1 one-fourth lb. powder	.19	1 quart measure	.25
1 pair cards	.50	1 Spelling book	.25
1 pint bottle	.17	1 Raw Hide whip	.17
1 lb. chocolate	.34	1 lemon	.12
24 milk pans	\$5.28	1 Scythe Snath	.25
1 bu. salt	2.50	1 Tin cup	.13
1 scythe	1.25	12 lbs. coffee	\$4.80
1 paper pins	.26	1 Toy watch	.17
3 Plated teaspoons	.50	3 one-half yds cotton shirting	.98
one-half yd. muslin	.36	1 Dipper	.09
1 half-inch auger	.34	2 Fans	.16
1 Dozen eggs	.13	20 lbs Butter	\$2.50
14 sheets Blank Writs	.44	1 sheep's skin	.13
stick twist	.08	1 shave	.84
1 half yd. Flannel	\$1.17	cuvitt	.20
1 skein silk	.08	1 Bed cord	.75
4 one-half yards Gradarill	\$1.69		

~~Manufactured by~~ *S. H. Bradley, Wholesale*

*To Travelling Agent for Dr. E. D. SPEAR. Dr.*

<i>✓</i> 6	Bottles	Balm of Life,	1	6.00
<i>✓</i> 3	"	Restorative Cordial,	1	3.00
<i>✓</i> 2	"	Tonic Cordial,	1	2.00
	"	Mothers Cordial,	2	
	"	Gravel Mixture,	2	
	"	Pain Killer,	50	
<i>✓</i> 2	"	Pain Killer,	25	.50
	"	Scrofula Syrup,	1	
	"	Croup Syrup,	50	
<i>✓</i> 3	"	Worm Syrup,	20	.60
<i>✓</i> 2	"	Friend of Humanity,	50	1.00
	"	Restorative Bitters,	50	
	"	Restorative Bitters,	25	
<i>✓</i> 4	"	Hair Oil Perfume,	25	.80
	"	Chemical Oil,	25	
<i>✓</i> 2	"	Eye Water,	25	.50
	"	Fever Drops,	50	
	"	Tonic Drops,	25	
	"	Canker Drops,	50	
<i>✓</i> 1	"	Cosmetic Lotion,	25	.25
	Pkg's	German Lotion,	3	
	"	Woman's Friend,	3	
<i>✓</i> 3	"	C. Cordial,	1	3.00
<i>✓</i> 3	Papers	Jaundice Bitters,	25	.75
	"	Golden Bitters,	1	.50
<i>✓</i> 2	"	German Powders,	25	.50
	Vials	Toothache Drops,	25	
<i>✓</i> 4	"	Balsam of Life,	30	1.36
	"	Diamond Cement,	25	
<i>✓</i> 10	Boxes	Liverwort Pills,	25	2.50
<i>✓</i> 2	"	Restorative Pills,	50	1.00
	"	All-Healing Salve,	25	
	"	Anodyne Plaster,	25	
2	"	Corn Plaster,	25	.50
	"	Catarrh Snuff,	50	
<i>✓</i> 6	"	Catarrh Snuff,	25	1.50
	"	Hydragogue Powders,	25	

To Sell and account for at 33 1-3 per cent commission or return on demand.

*25.76*

*Cash due at date of payment \$1.00*



1 lb rosin	.13	1 case knives and	
1 India Chizzel	.50	forks	\$2.25
2 scythe stones	.34	1 Ivory comb	.28
4 lbs sole leather	\$1.34	1 Butter Berril	\$1.00
2 prs sleeve links	.12	1 Powder Flask	.25
1 cupboard Turn	.21	2 Wine Glasses	.25
3 yds Ribbon	.18	2 Lbs No. 8 yarn	\$1.44
2 lbs rice	.20	17 Toy Books	.50
7 yds Factory cloth	\$1.75	1 gallon Whiskey	.58
3 Sickles	\$1.41	1 Pair Snuffers	.29
1 Lamp	.25	16 screws	.15
1 Quart bottle	.25	2 candlesticks	.50
3 One-fourth yds		1 Basket	.50
Gingham	\$1.63	1 Qt W. I. Rum	.42
1 Padlock	.46	25 Goose Quills	.13
1 pr footings	.50	1 Qt Cherry	.25
4 Iron Spoons	.50	3 Pair Hooks and Eyes	.12
1 Tin Bason	.17	1 shovel	\$1.42
1 Dozen Buttons	.17	3 one-half lbs rags	.14
1 Coffee Pot	.84	1 Pair Suspenders	.28
1 Jack Knife	.31	1 lb Flour Brads	.16
2 Fish Hooks	.02	1 lb Brimstone	.20
1 Razor	.50	1 Fig Tobacco	.06
1 Razor case	.29	1 Wheat Berril	\$1.25
1 oz Otter	.17	1 Lanthorn	.75
2 oz Saltpeter	.05	1 one-half pint Brandy	.38
1 doz. Moles	.08	2 Fancy Tumblers	.60
1 Bushel Fine Salt	\$2.25		

As Ward Bradley continued to be chief merchant and storekeeper in Wheelock, he came to be known as the Old Squire both locally and all along the line to Boston. He bought ashes, beef, hides, pork, flour, butter, etc., which he shipped to Montreal, Portland and Boston by such teamsters as James and Henry Sherburn and Joseph N. Davis.

In his store ledgers he kept careful accounts. If an article were to be charged to another, he followed the entry with, "By son," "by girl," "by wife" or by the name of the neighbor who had done the "errant." In case a customer bought the same article a second time, he followed the second entry with "more."

When a customer wanted his account "drawn off," Bradley did so in a little blue covered blank book, if the account were a long one.

In the course of village trade, Ward Bradley often had goods left with him to sell at the store by local people. Mary Bickford left straw hats to sell—31 in all—for which he paid her \$8.16. Josiah left some "chip hats" for sale and Stephen Morgan, 6 pewter spoons. There was also quite an assortment of school books, "to sell or return," as sent by Ira White, bookbinder and bookseller of Wells River.

Bradley had a curious habit of jotting down on the inside cover or last page of his journals such items as sums lent, jugs and bottles loaned, etc. These were crossed off when returned. Sample entries were:

Lent J. Sherburn a salt bag  
Left one iron-bound oil keg at the oil mill in St. Johnsbury with the man that makes oil.

David Atwood left 2 adze to sell

Lent Josiah Miles 1 jug

John Brown Jug and cork lent

John Brown, Jr. Ballance on Bonnett 21 cts.

Let Capt. Dow have 4 half-crowns at 55 and if he cannot pass them in Canada I make good.

Stephen Morgan left 3 prs. Ox bows at 2/

And so the Old Squire carried on the store near where the hay scales were later placed on the main street of Wheelock village. Helping him were his sons, Hiel and Sewall, both of whom took part in town affairs. Sewall was postmaster from Sept. 6, 1845 to July 29, 1847 and again from Nov. 11, 1847 to Sept. 8, 1851. The Bradleys also carried on a store in Sheffield during this time.

#### STORE CUSTOMERS

The men and women and their purchases appear again from Ward Bradley's Day Book of 1819, as set down by O. D. M. in the Vermont Union-Journal for May 1928. The list must include the good payers and the poor payers long remembered by Ward Bradley through the years.

"They may be of interest as showing the people who traded there. The items selected do not fairly represent the sale of liquor, which was very largely sold at that time, both in large and small quantities," commented O. D. M.

Nehemiah Phillips, Dr.		Uriah Wood, Dr.	
Stuff	\$ .13	1 pt. W. I. rum	.22
Daniel Drown, Cr.		Samuel Hoyt, Dr.	
1 ax (returned)	2.00	1 pen knife	.15
Barnard Hoyt, Dr.		Andrew Hoegg, Dr.	
3 lb. 6 oz. steel		1 pocket book	.34
at .27	.91	Hezekiah Bickford, Dr.	
Moses Hall, Cr.		13½ lbs. cheese	1.35
10¼ bushels ashes	\$1.71	David Eastman, Cr.	
Smith Mathewson, Dr.		19 lbs. butter	2.37
5 lbs. 12 oz. pickled		Josiah Lane, Dr.	
fish	.35	4½ yds. calico	
3¾ cords wood	3.75	at .35	1.58
Samuel Allen, Dr.		Ira Evans, Cr.	
3-16 yd. velvet	.21	By bringing 10 dollars	
Hannah Drown, Dr.		from St. Johnsbury	.25
1 bkff.	.75	Charles Mathewson, Dr.	
Jehoida Moore, Dr.		1 gimblet	.08
18 lights 7x9 glass	2.25	Joseph R. Davis, Dr.	
Paul Otis, Dr.		1 nutmeg	.08
1 felt hat	1.50	Jonathan Gray, Dr.	
Horace Evans, Dr.		4½ yds. full cloth	\$7.13
15 lbs. sugar	2.50	Elisha Veasey, Dr.	
Nathaniel Gray, Dr.		by Mrs. Atwood	
1 gallon molasses	1.25	1 salt seller	.17
Jonathan Folsom, Jr., Dr.		Elisha Sanborn, Dr.	
1 paper pins	.25	⅝ yd. millinet	.24

Henry Sherburn, Cr. By transporting 12-1-8 to Montreal and 10-2-24 back to Wheelock \$46.07	John Weeks, Dr. by Thankful 1 lb H. S. tea 1.15	Jacob Twombly, Dr. 2 hoes 1.17	Heman Meigs, Dr. by girl 3½ yds. gingham 1.75
Joseph M. Davis, Cr. By transporting 9-3-26 to Montreal and 5-3-20 back to Wheelock 31.82	Jonathan Nelson, Dr. 1 bandannah hkff 1.12	Joseph Harris, Dr. 2½ yds. factory strips .98	1 skn thread .03
Stephen McGaffey, Dr. 1½ lbs. nails .30	Joseph Harris, Dr. 1 trunk lock .20	3 skeins thread .09	1 thimble .06
Robert Morrison, Dr. 5 lbs. trout .63	1 butter berrill 1.00	1 pr. suspenders .28	Jonathan Badger, Dr. 1 file .50
Ichabod Foye, Dr. ¼ lb powder .19	Sally Jennes, Dr. Postage on letter to Mary .12½	14 moles .09	Darius Williams, Dr. 2 yds. brown hallon .84
2 flints .02	Jonathan Bradley, Dr. 6 spikes .06	1 lemon .12	Nicholas Pearl, Dr. 3 rakes 1.00
Nathan Weeks, Dr. 24 milk pans \$5.28	David Woodman, Dr. 1 bushel salt \$2.75	John White, Dr. 1 fig tobacco .05	Archelaus Heath, Dr. 1 bushel fine salt 2.25
Aaron Quimby, Dr. 1 meal bag 1.00	Joseph H. Inghals, Dr. 2 felt hats \$2.50	Joseph Young, Dr. 1 junk bottle and cork .26	Henry Hoffman, Jr., Dr. ½ lb. Hyson tea .80
1 pr. cards .50	2 N. pins .02	1 pt. whiskey .17	Laban Miles, Dr. 4 lbs. 6 oz. Redwood .54
Caleb Marsh, Dr. 7 yds. tow cloth \$2.62	Rheubin Magoon, Dr. 1 vest pattern .88	Joel Fletcher, Dr. 1 set cups and saucers .42	John Curtis, Dr. 1 candle stick .34
Josiah Dow, Dr. ½ sheet pres. paper .08	Nathaniel Elkins, Cr. 17 lbs. veal .68	2 nt tumblers .60	1 Pt. bowl .17
Dolly Otis, Dr. 1½ yd. shoe binding .02	Jonathan Taylor, Dr. 1 pr. N needles .03	2½ Do .40	2 pt. Do .20
William Gray, Dr. by girl 1 oz. picara .17	1 peging awl .03	2 gill Do .25	Eliphalet Gray, by Mrs. G. ½ lb allum .10
Samuel Parks, Dr. by boy 1 twist .10	1 handle for Do .03	2 Wine Do .25	½ lb Bohea tea .25
2 silk .17	Jude Kimball, Dr. 3 yds. bombesett \$2.00	1 bedcord .75	1 oz. pepper .14
1 doz. buttons .34	Theophilus Folsom, Dr. 2½ thousand shingles 5.00	Stephen Willey, Dr. 1 inch chizzel .50	Malica Richardson, Cr. By 3¼ lbs. sugar .47
Jacob Sulloway, Cr. By 5 doz. eggs .63	Mesheck Libbey, Dr. 1½ yd. check cloth .68	Thomas Scott, Dr. 2 Shuhides each 47 and 54 \$1.01	Exchange between screws .07
Hosea Williams, Cr. By 6 nights work 1.00	Willard Bartlett, Dr. 3 hymn books 1.60	Barnard Hoyt 4 lbs. sole leather 1.34	Eli Eastman, Dr. lb sulphur .40
Nathaniel Morgan, Cr. By fixing hoop on lye trough .67	1 Testament .50	John Meigs, Dr. by Elder Allen .21	1 lb ginger .30
Daniel Heard, Cr. By 1 days work in garden .75	Abner Bean, Dr. 1 American Preceptor .42	Simeon Shattuck, Dr. 1 pt. rum .21	Otis Hedden, Dr. 2 Qt. whiskey high .29
John Chase, Dr. 3 lbs. spikes .50	Pascal E. Wait, Dr. 1 rasp .50	1 hoe .58	Abel Willmarth, Dr. by Susan .29
Caroline Tilton, Dr. 1 pr. shoes \$1.17	1 pr. shoe brushes .34	2 yds. calico .52	1 pr snuffers .29
Philip Mathewson, Dr. by John Barber 1 glass rum for bringing oat meal .06	Stephen Haines, Dr. 1 pr. boots 4.00	Paul McNeal, Dr. 5 lbs. flour brads .75	Charles Clark, Dr. 1½ yds. velvet \$1.50
Peter Cochran, Dr. 1 doz. moles .08	Ezekiel Miles, Dr. ½ mug sling .13	Wm. Miles, Dr. by Sally Fisher .17	Samuel Daniels, Dr. 1 case knives and forks 1.88
Samuel Bean, Dr. 4 yds. cambric \$2.78	John Elkins, Dr. 2 needles .01	Gideon Leavitt, Dr. 1 mouse trap .13	2 pipes .04
Elijah Willard, Dr. 2½ yds. quality .08	1 fish hook .01	King Hill, Dr. 1 whetstone .20	John Brown, Dr. 72 lights 6by8 glass 5.76
Joannah Berry, Dr. 1 Umbrella 1.60	9 rows pins .09	1 cow hide whip .17	Nathaniel Hart, Dr. 8 doz. buttons and thread 1.00
Joseph Gray, Dr. by wife 1 pr. crack spectacles .42	1 Jews harp .04	Abner Hayward, Dr. 3 lbs. No. 11 yarn \$2.43	2 sticks taste .20
	David Drown, Dr. 1 pipe .02	Samuel Hoyt, Dr. 1 oz. camphor .25	David Fifield, Dr. 1 oz. otter .17
	1 yd. taste .04	Short pay .06	John Love, Dr. ¼ lb spice .16
	Stephen Morgan, Dr. 1 wheel head 1.38	William Abbott, Dr. 6 lbs. 10 oz. salmon \$1.10	1 shovel 1.67
	Obil Shattuck, Dr. 2 scythe snaths .50	Peter Woodman, Dr. 3 yds. shirting 1.89	B. M. Richardson, Dr. 1 paper pins .25
	2 scythes 2.50	1 felt hat 1.75	2 pairs hooks, eyes .08
		Jesse Williams, Dr. 1 lb cotton wool .34	Samuel Selver, Cr. By mending kettle 4.00
		Clement Daniels, Dr. 1 Shave .84	4 lbs. iron .40

## ADVICE

When Ward Bradley sold out the Wheelock store in 1851, he reserved the right to sit in the store as much as he pleased. At that time it was the custom for favored citizens to have their own chairs at the store, where they could gather of an evening and hold "store court," or informal forums, with their neighbors.

One day after H. A. Quimby, who then operated the store, had finished waiting on a customer and the man had left, Mr. Bradley said, "Mr. Quimby, if you wouldn't think it meddling in your business, I think I could give you some helpful information. When a customer asks you for credit, if I have found him in the past poor pay, I will just rap on the floor three times with my cane. In such cases you had better get cash."



## Chapter XIII

# Business Letters to Ward Bradley

After setting up store on the County road, Squire Bradley soon found that he needed more goods of all kinds and at once started the correspondence with Boston and Portland merchants and commission agents that continued throughout his life time. Samples of the letters he received show the business methods and courtesies of the times.

In 1801 a bill from Alanson Tucker, former partner in Allen & Tucker, Boston, was addressed to "W. Bradlee, Minhost, Newbury," showing that Newbury was the established postoffice furthest north on the way to Wheelock. After that, the letter would have to travel to Bradley by post rider, or "kindness of friend."

### FURS, FELTS AND FLOWERS

Correspondence from Benjamin Kimball, Jr. of Concord, N. H. always included interesting sidelights.

Concord 31 Oct. 1801

Mr. Ward Bradley bought of Benjn Kimball, Jr.

	L.	S.	d.
forty-six felt hats at 6/6	14	19	0
do fourteen Boys Hats at 4/6	3	3	0
do one fur hat 30/	1	10	0
do one Ladies fur hat at 18/	0	18	0
one Bridle 8/ three boxes 4/	0	12	0

21 2 0

the above Account I shall weight one year by your paying me simple interest and take out for a Note which you hold against me of about Eight Dollars.

my respects to Capt. Wix (Weeks) & Family  
Doct. Meggs & his Family.

Bradley yours

Benjn Kimball, Jr.

### Prices of furs

Mink from	1 to 4
Sable	1 to 4
fox	3/6
Wildcat	2/5
Bear	6 to 18
Otter	6 to 18
Fisher	1 to 4
Musrats from	4 d. to 1/6

Concord February 9th 1802

Mr. Bradley

I have receivd some flower by the hand of Mr. Laine which I will account to you the highest price going—as to the prospect of flower it is verry poor—its going at 18/ in the Seaports and about that in this town—I will allow you Nineteen shilling and more if I can git. I wish you to buy me a yoke of Oxen if you can in your way not to put yourself to to much trouble—a pair 5 6 or 7 years old good for Business and not unruly—about 6 feet cattle and spry to travill—send me word for I wish to buy a pair immediately and if you let me have the cattle send them down by some careful hand which may becoming down in a time.

Your

Benjn. Kimball, Jr.

Mr. Ward Bradley

the best of mink 5/

3 yd. tan Cloth in Sack Not Returned

Concord February 23, 1806

Mr. Bradley Sir

I have sent you by the Bearer two Boxes of hats containing sixty-five.

Nineteen large Napt hats at 19/ per hat	60	16
two doz. Womans hats at 15/ doz. two at 12/	9	0
twenty Eigh Larg felt hats at 6/6	30	34
fourteen small Bous hats at 4/6	10	50

110 00

one Large White hat put in for Mrs. Sargant

The above Napt hats you may account for if sold, otherways I will take them again. The felt hats one years credit with interest after Six Months. I wish you not to mention nor let it be nown what those hats come at. They are as cheap as I have sold to any body.

My Respects

Ben Kimball, Jr.

NB. the square box belongs to Mr. Worthen by his paying for the box & three shilling for freight.

IN THE INTEREST OF YUNG HYSON

Boston, 13 March 1821

Mr. Ward Bradley

Sir: Plates & Cups & Saucers are geting quite scarce. I have done as well by you as the

Boston July 27. 1841.

Mrs. W. C. S. Bradley,

Bought of **KIDDER & CO.**

DEALERS IN  
WEST INDIA GOODS, LIQUORS, WINES, CIGARS, SPERM OIL, SUGARS, TEAS & COUNTRY PRODUCE.  
F. D. KIDDER, SHIP STORES PUT UP AT SHORT NOTICE. No. 17 & 18 North Market, and 17 Clinton Street.  
E. T. KIDDER.

2 Bbls 50	10 Kegs	40	
		40	
		80	
		40	
		120	July 032 — 38.40
10 Gall. Brandy		050	5.00
10 " Hol. Gin		0125	12.50
2 Kegs	1/2 & 4/10		1.37
	Carting		.25
			<u>\$57.52</u>

Gentlemen

We have this morning sent the above goods to Depot as per your order of 24<sup>th</sup> instant. We were obliged to send you ten gallons of Hol. Gin. as we had no smaller sized Kegs on hand, and we thought we would fill it, our Mr. C. T. Kidder says that if you cannot dispose of it he will come up there and help you drink it.

Truly Yrs. Obedt Servt. Kidder & Co.  
By Moody,



trade will admit & I would not have sold them for lefs, for Cash, had you been here

Your humb. Servt.

Samuel Sumner

(The bill for cups and saucers amounted to \$35.50)

#### SWEET'NIN'

Ward Bradley bought hats from John Groom in St. Johnsbury. In 1818, soon after the Squire bought out the village store of Clark, Fairbanks & Co., he ordered \$75 worth of hats from Groom. Four years later trade was still good:

Mr. W. Bradley

Sir I have sent By the Stage one Knapt Hat It will be cash if you keep it

1 Dozen Men's felt Hats at 7/ 14.00

Payable in good Drained sugar at 10 cents or you may pay me in Lambs wool for I have a quantity of Sugar on hand But I will take Drained sugar for this Dozen

St. Johnsbury August 14th 1822

John Groom

the Knapt will Be \$4.00

#### AND IT WAS THE BEST BUTTER!

In February 1824 Bradley received a letter from the commission agent complaining of a tub of butter, saying:

Sir: The butter which you sent to me did not prove to be all of one kind. At the head that we took out had the appearance of Good Butter but after we took out a part, it was so bad that we could not make use of it. I took the other head and found that there was a small part of good and in the middle was a bad kind. It is the worst butter I ever seen solde. Still for all this you are not Blameable.

In September of that year, his agents wrote, "good butter is now selling at 12 cts." The November price was still 12 cents and New Milk cheese brought 7 cents per pound. On July 10, 1831 George W. Lewis of Boston, from whom the Squire had bought N. E. Rum and 4 quintals of Cod Fish, warned "Butter brings about 12½ cts. but the Weather is so very hot—I should fear it might melt—if so, it would not bring 10 cts. I think that you had better not send it quite yet—if any favorable prospect I will notify you."

#### THE TRIALS OF TEMPERANCE

In his letter of Oct. 17, 1834, George W. Lewis of Boston includes these thoughts on trade:

Butter 11 to 12; good, 12½ to 14; prime, 15 to 18. I send you the highest proof N. E. Rum I can get. It is Very Scarce & difficult to be had, owing to *Temperance Societies*—So much is used for *Bathing the Throat* probably keeps it in demand.

#### TREES INTO PLOUGHSHARES

Invoice of Plough and Shares from E & T Fairbanks & Co. to Messr. W. & S. Bradley

St. Johnsbury Mar. 18, 1837

1 Plough Side Hill & Wheel	13.50
1 do with Wheel & coulter	15.50
3 do No. 1½	11½ 34.50
3 do No. 2	" 33.00
10 Shares at .87	8.70
	<hr/> 105.20

St. Johnsbury May 1, 1837

Mr. Bradley

Your favor of the 29 ult. is at hand. We take spruce boards delivered here at 5 \$ pr. thousand & if you can sell a plough for boards we will allow you that price for them on settlement the same as cash.

Very Respectfully,

E & T Fairbanks & Co.

#### A PROBLEM IN DIVISION

Messrs W. & S. Bradley

Gent. We have delivered your man 12 & ½ Bbls Flour agreeable to wish and we are of the opinion that you have as much as will sell at your place this winter. We think we have not a very large stock of flour on hand and should like to have it divided as even as possible amongst our customers. Should you feel sure that another load would sell by the opening of Navigation you can send for it. We suggest these ideas for your consideration as we would prefer to have wheat flour we have on hand at home when navigation opens rather than have it scattered about.

Yours Truly

Cross, Hyde & Co.

Montpelier Dec. 18, 1840

We have delivered to your teams 52 ½ bbls. You will ascertain in a few weeks what the demand is likely to be at your place and are anxious to have you keep supplied but not to have any left after say 1st May.

C H & Co.

## Chapter XIV

# Your Ashes

*"To my surprise the bushels of ashes in our old Vermont account books proved to be living capillaries in a very old organism—green twigs on an immense, ancient and always growing tree . . ." Dorothy Canfield Fisher*

The settlement of Wheelock coincided with the last forty years of the potash and pearlash boom that had begun in the American Colonies soon after England gained the monopoly of the fuller's trade in the early 18th century. Having wrested this phase of woolen manufactory from the Low Countries, which, in turn, had gained the secret from the fullers of Florence, Italy in an earlier age, England, the new monopolist, found that she needed great quantities of "fullers sope." "Sope" was used to wash the wool in successive stages of manufacture. Lye in combination with grease made the soap.

The only known source of lye was potash, made from the leached ashes of burned trees. After nearly exhausting her own forests, England imported potash from Riga, but soon came to regret that so much money was thus going out of the country. In 1751 Parliament passed "An Act for encouraging the making of Pot Ashes and Pearl Ashes in the British Plantations in America." This was followed on Sept. 29, 1756 by the notice that from then on, "no duty was to be paid on Pot and Pearl Ashes from America."

By 1767 a manual of instruction on the making of potash was printed in London and widely circulated in the colonies in an attempt to further spur production. A partial list of the tools mentioned included:

A strong iron rod, longer than the depth of the cauldrons, or pans, and flattened at one end, in the manner of a broad chisel, for loofening the alkaline salt from the bottom of the cauldron during evaporation

An iron ladle for raking out the salt; or cooling the ley if it tend to boil over the cauldron

A strong broad iron chisel, with a wooden mallet for cutting the salt out of the cauldron, when the whole operation is completed.

*(Vermont Tradition, Dorothy Canfield Fisher p. 170)*

Most of the settlers in the colonies already knew about the process of leaching lye from wood ashes,

as they used this method in making their household soap. This new opportunity for export increased the activity in the northern part of the country, especially since the manufacture of pot and pearl ashes brought in cash, not the compulsory trade goods of England's exclusive make. In the early years almost no price was too high, so eager were the English manufacturers for this necessary ingredient.

Even before the Wheelock settlers had left their homes in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the older towns were busy with their potasheries. In 1790 an entry in Thomas Hoyt's Day Book shows 13 bushels of "ashes." Thomas Hoyt, a tanner of Canterbury, N. H., was father of Thomas, Abner and Barnard Hoyt, pioneers of Danville and Wheelock.

The loss of her colonies in the Revolutionary War left England still dependent on them as a source of potassa. She tried to increase output in her remaining possession, Canada, but trade with the United States flourished just the same for several years. Thomas Jefferson's Embargo Act of 1808 was ineffective in stopping the flow of ashes to England, as many producers in northern Vermont and New York smuggled the valuable cargo to Canada, whence it was shipped overseas as "Canadian potash." In his History of Vermont, E. D. Collins wrote on page 168, "Parties from Danville and Peacham cut a road through to Irasburg and Troy in the fall of 1807 and transported hundreds of tons of salts and pearlash to Canada."

The opening up of the township of Wheelock was at a most auspicious time. The farmers got paid handsomely for clearing their land of large stands of hardwood that made excellent potash. In later years, lumbermen may have mourned the "waste" of so much valuable timber, thinking only of the fine boards for furniture and flooring that they would have grown rich on. But had they lived at that earlier era they, too, would have taken imme-



diate advantage of the "cash crop" then offered. In fact, ashes, weighing much less relatively than wheat, were the easiest farm product to carry to market.

The whole picture of Wheelock in the Era of Ashes comes into a clearer light from the store accounts and business letters of Ward Bradley. The large iron kettles, or cauldrons, recommended by the English manual of instructions, were bought by Bradley from the New Hampshire Iron Factory in Franconia, N. H. (*see Barstow's History of New Hampshire, 1853, pp. 334-335 for details on the mine, etc.*)

Franconia Jan. 28, 1823

Ward Bradlee, Esquire

Bot of New H. Iron Factory

1 Pair No. 2 Potash Kettles \$70.00

Again, on Jan. 26, 1832, Philemon Putnam acknowledged receipt for payment of

2 No. 1 Potash Kettles \$60

1 No. 1 Bake pan 1.50

1 No. 1 Bake pan cover - .75

---

62.25

Another source of potash "kittles" was Tyson Furnace, Tyson, Vt. These were sold by a traveling agent, The Tyson Furnace Teamster, on a "warrant not to Brake." Isaac Kinnaston, Jr. had given his note for \$300 and 100 pounds of sugar for a kettle. But when the "kittle" broke after about two days, he refused to pay, thinking he would see the agent sometime along and he would make it good. Result: the company threatened him with a law suit in 1842, through Underwood of Wells River. Kinnaston appealed to Sewall Bradley to help him out and the latter wrote to Underwood, giving Kinnaston as "good character" and honest man.

The potash kettles were about two to three feet high and four to five feet in diameter and were set in a brick, or stone, arch, under which a fire was kept going during the boiling process for evaporation of the salts. The place where this was done was called a "potash." Two known ashery sites in Wheelock were the one of Ward Bradley in back of the present location of Col. Chase's Inn (*shown on Beers Atlas map of Wheelock village as Charles Miles'*); and another just to the left of the second bridge on the Danville road at the north end of the village. This may have been the one run by Samuel Weeks along with his potato whiskey distillery.

In some instances individual farmers leached the ashes from their clearings and traded the potash, or the further refined pearlash, at the local store. Later, potasheries were set up in the towns to which the farmers and merchants sent "raw" ashes to be processed. Often in the old account books charges appear "for pearling your ashes." Storekeepers used ashes as a medium of exchange with local suppliers as noted in this letter:

Danville 9 March 1807

Mr. Ward Bradley

Sir: I have rec'd the salts from Mr. Morgan, wt. 532 gross pounds, which stand mentioned on our salts book & have sent you the H'h'd of Rum, which will bear of water, one to eleven. the Whiskey is not Rec'd. We have a H'h'd of Molasses come, you can have a burrell of it if you wish, also some Coffee, if you think best, as we have Rec'd a burrell lately.

Yours Sincerely,

for Aaron Porter  
Luther Clark

Ashes were also sent to the seaports of the United States and Canada from Wheelock. Among Squire Bradley's business letters with merchants in these places, the earliest found, March 2, 1819, quotes ashes at \$175 per ton.

#### A GOOD ARTICLE

A letter of April 6, 1822 from Goodman, Saville & Kent, Boston, states:

Your ashes we shall keep for a short time as there is no vessell up at present and the probability is that when there is one, ashes will bring as high a price as at any time between this and winter.

The following year the same firm wrote, when sending an invoice for Bradley's order of Brandy, Sugar, Yung Hyson Tea and Tobacco:

Boston Aug. 27, 1823

Sir Above is a bill of goods ordered. The 2 Casks ashes we shall take into Store when they are inspected at \$135 per ton which is the present price. Ashes will probably continue as high or higher than they are now altho it is impossible to tell with any certainty before hand. There is little doubt they will be a good article. Butter is low & probably will be say 12 or 13 cents. We cannot form an opinion about Beef yet.

Respectfully yrs.

Goodman, Saville & Kent

In 1824 Bradley received this accounting for ashes he had sent from Wheelock to Portland, Me. on the regular teamster's route via Waterford Ferry, Crawford Notch, North Conway, Bridgeton, Raymond and Portland.

Memorandum of 10 casks ashes sold Chamberlain & Kittredge for W. Bradley, Esq.

Portland Jany. 23, 1824

10 Casks P. Ashes (Certificate No. 42)

3	2	4	47
3	2	5	46
3	2	17	46
3	1	00	45
3	1	15	45
3	1	2	41
3	1	20	45
3	0	4	44
3	1	0	45
3	1	22	45
<hr/>			
33	3	25	449
4	0	1	
<hr/>			
29	3	24	
			\$135 per ton is
			deduct expense
			\$202.26
			2.90
			<hr/>
			199.36

first sorted

By 1827 Samuel Ayer, tanner and shoemaker of Wheelock, was also trading in ashes. One can only wonder if the new venture was so successful that "ash money" provided the capital for the Brick Hotel he built in 1830.

Wheelock May 30th 1827

Sir

Please deliver the bearer Sewall Bradley the Certificates of the Pearlashes I sent you for Inspection about a week ago being Seven Berrills and three Berrills sent by James Sherburn yesterday and

Oblige your friend

Samuel Ayer

To the Inspector of Pearlashes  
Charleston, Ms.

"At that time it was not doubted that 'Vermont would supply wood for centuries to come and the pearlash manufacture be here carried on with

greatest perfection and profit.'" (*Town of St. Johnsbury, Fairbanks. p. 142*) But, as Dorothy Canfield Fisher explains in her penetrating study of "ashes" in "*Vermont Tradition*," New England potash manufacturers were unaware of scientific discoveries then being made in Europe that would soon substitute other chemicals, such as sodium, for their pearlash.

George W. Lewis, Boston commission agent, wrote to Ward Bradley in July 1831, "The ashes I not disposed so soon as I expected. They are still Dull & no prospect of an advance as I see . . .".

The bonanza years were over and even the good years were waning, until the problem of disposing of "your ashes" became a chancy thing.

Boston Oct. 17, 1834

Gentl.

I sold your ashes last sent & for the reason you always do yourselves. I felt affraid to hold on for fear of fire or accident, but if in Dollars and cents no danger—4 casks 12.2.13 at \$100—\$63.05. Sold July 26th and credited in your account. They are now worth 110 to 112 . . . . I think ashes will keep about as they are say 108 to 115. Vary according to quantitys in and qualities . . . I send your note with thanks for the change

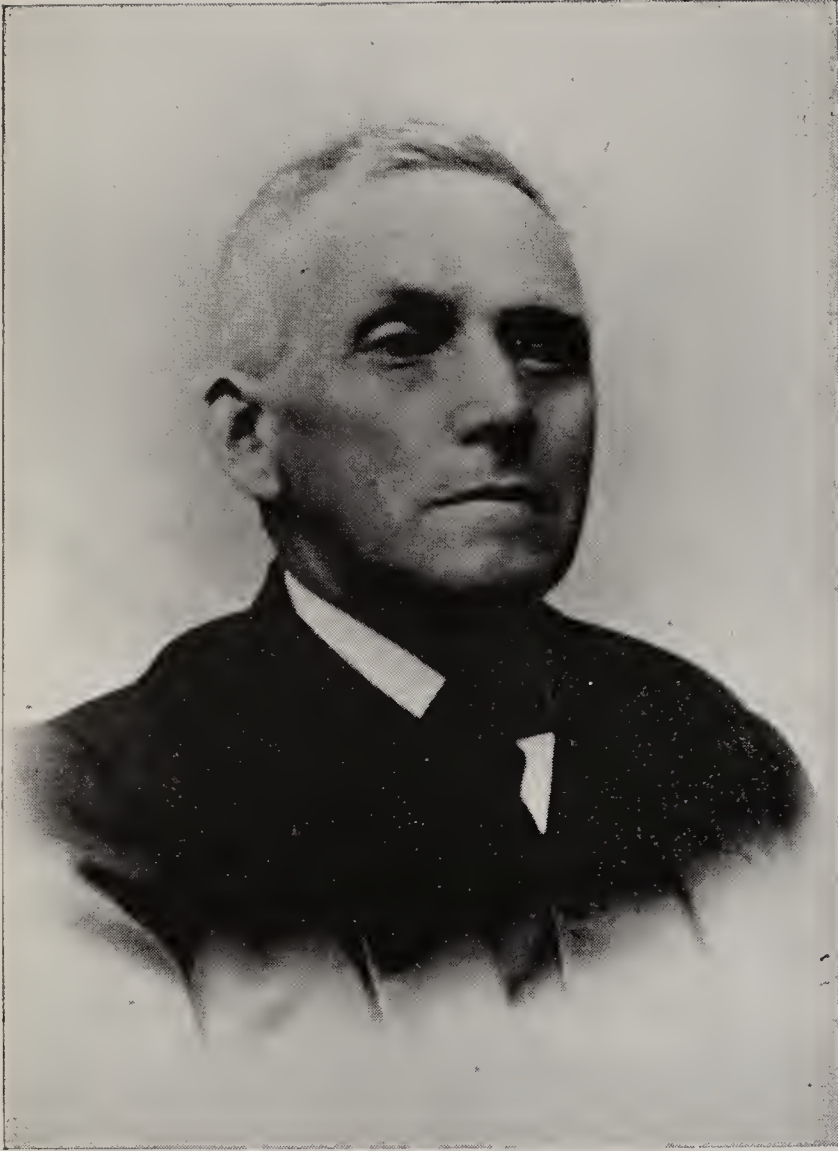
Yrs Truly

George W. Lewis

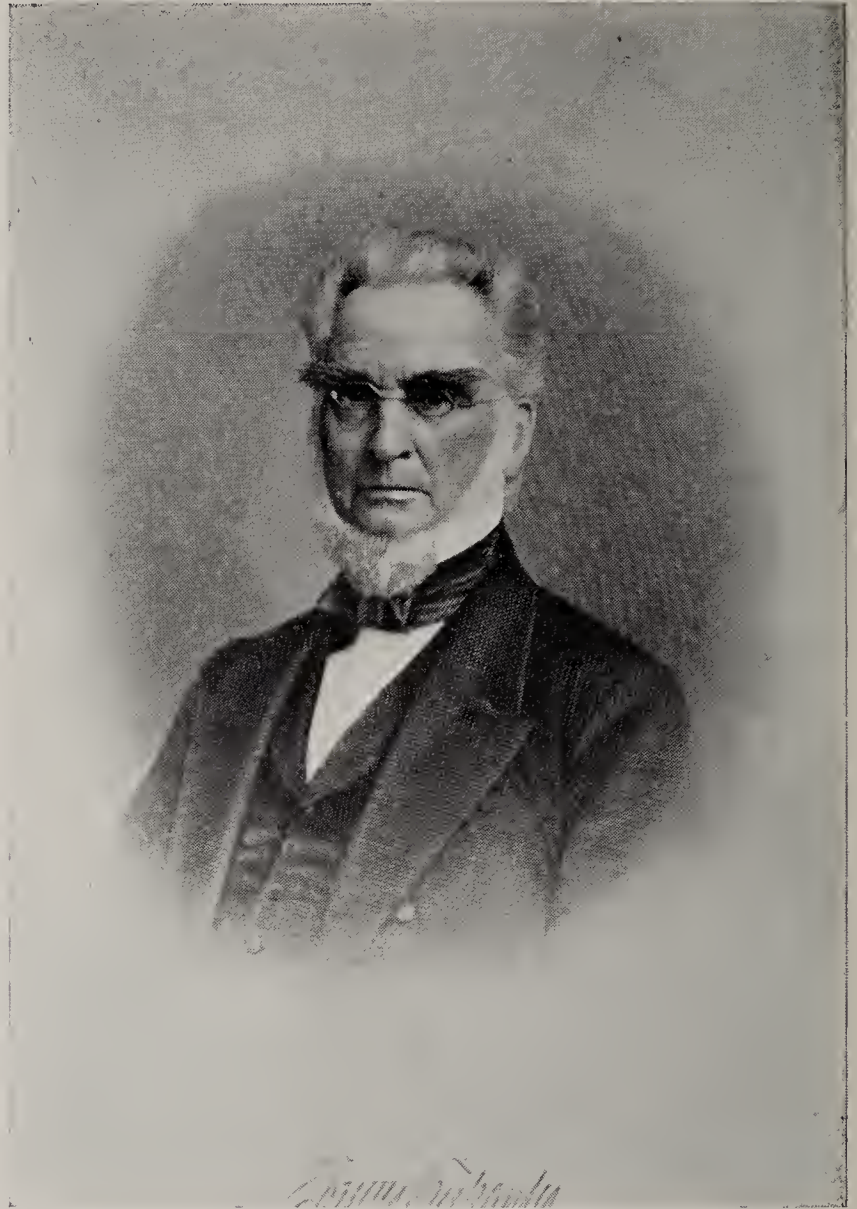
In the years immediately following, the European demand for ashes steadily diminished, as the use of sodium from huge salt deposits on the Continent supplied the needs of wool, soap and glass manufacturers. For a time American industries used local potash and pearlash, thus easing the loss in foreign trade. In 1827 Bradley sold ashes to a glass manufacturer in Cambridge, Mass. But it was not long before American needs were also supplied by the easily worked European salt beds. By the middle of the 1840's, "ashes" were no longer a kind of light-wight gold that could be bartered for the little extras that had made life in early Wheelock so pleasant.



## VILLAGE STOREKEEPERS



BENJAMIN F. TAYLOR



ERASTUS FAIRBANKS



WHEELLOCK VILLAGE STORE



## Chapter XV

# Preparation For Public Service

*The first forty years of life give us the text; the next thirty supply the commentary on it . . . Heinrich Heine*

Erastus Fairbanks, who was born in Brimfield, Mass. Oct. 28, 1792, began his first independent business venture in Wheelock. Although he moved on to other business ventures after a few years, and went into partnership with his brothers, Thaddeus and Joseph P. Fairbanks, to form the original Fairbanks Scale Works of St. Johnsbury, his early experiences in Wheelock must have proved helpful throughout his life.

In the spring of 1814, Erastus Fairbanks had formed a business connection with Mr. Frederick Phelps of St. Johnsbury, with whom he had been a clerk the previous winter. The plan was to open a store in Wheelock, then an almost new settlement in the wilderness, fifteen miles from St. Johnsbury. The "wilderness settlement" was, however, on the direct stage and mail route between Boston and Montreal at that time, while St. Johnsbury was not so strategically placed.

### WHEN HATS TURNED TO ASHES

Mr. Phelps was to furnish the capital (\$800) and Mr. Fairbanks was to transact the business, the only capital he put in being the avails of the wagon and harness which his father had given him the autumn before. These he had sold for \$72, taking his pay in hats, which he put into the store. Tradition has it that this first store in Wheelock Hollow was a log cabin. It is supposed to have stood just where the Danville road leaves the village at the two bridges and opposite the site of the William Smith house of later years.

During the season, Mr. Fairbanks bought out his partner's share of the goods, giving his notes payable the next winter in ashes. The country being new and depressed by the war with England, money was scarce and the farmers, in clearing their lands, burned the timber and collected the ashes as their chief product. Accordingly, he converted his hats and goods to ashes, cancelling therewith his obligations to Mr. Phelps and freighting the remainder to

Boston in exchange for more goods. "In this way, after two years of effort, his little boat was fairly launched, the means which enabled him to do it having been gained by the confidence he had inspired in Mr. Phelps during his winter's clerkship."

(The memory of his store was inspiration of the C. H. Goss Co. float for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Fairbanks Scale in St. Johnsbury July 4-6, 1930)

On Nov. 5, 1814 Mr. Fairbanks leased from Benjamin Conner "a house standing opposite John Chase's" for a term of three years from Jan. 1, 1815. This house stood where the hay scales were later placed on the main village street. It is probable that it was converted into a store and may form a part of the present building.

### THE NEW VILLAGE STORE

As early as June 3, 1815 Erastus Fairbanks was conducting business at the new site in partnership with John and Luther Clark of St. Johnsbury, under the name of Clark, Fairbanks & Co. On June 3, 1815 Ezekial Weeks conveyed to Luther Clark of St. Johnsbury and Erastus Fairbanks of Wheelock the land on the north side of the road opposite John Chase's (where John Ripley later lived), being between the land owned by Benjamin Conner and that formerly owned by Edward Gilman, a tract about 6 rods wide on the road and extending back about 16 rods. This is the land where the parsonage stood (now burned). This land was probably bought to erect a home for Erastus' bride, for he had married Miss Lois Crossman of Peacham on May 31, 1815.

On April 30, 1816 Benjamin Conner deeded the store building and an acre of land, connected, to Clark, Fairbanks & Co.

### IN PUBLIC SERVICE AT HOME

Erastus Fairbanks' name first appears in the School District No. 4 records as district collector in



March 1815. His school tax for that year was \$1.86. The following year he was a member of the prudential committee, with Elijah Willard and Horace Evans. In October 1816 he was chosen moderator of the school meeting. Evidently the schoolhouse was cold, for the meeting adjourned to Mr. Fairbanks' store. The voters showed their confidence in him by voting that "Erastus Fairbanks *except* the schoolhouse and keep the key." The town elected him a hayward in 1816 and a lister in 1817. He was postmaster from April 1, 1817 to Aug. 20, 1818, when he moved to set up a business in East St. Johnsbury.

His interest in education went beyond the care and heating of the schoolhouse. In fact he was interested in whatever tended to promote the welfare of the community. It is related that when the elephant was exhibited in town as a wonder in those early days, Mr. Fairbanks presented tickets to the school teacher and all her pupils, admitting them to the sight free. (No one at that time knew that the elephant was returning to the home of his prehistoric ancestors. It was not until 1849 that tusks and part of the skeleton of a mastodon were exhumed at Mt. Holly, Vermont while workmen were laying the railroad through there to Rutland. This proved that the mastodon, an early member of the elephant family, lived in Vermont as the last glacial mass was retreating from this part of the world.)

Another expression of Mr. Fairbanks' concern for others was described by his one-time clerk, Zelotes

Hosmer of Boston and quoted in the *Congregational Quarterly* of January 1867:

"We had in June (1816) a snow storm of several days continuance, entirely destroying the crops of the farmers and there was every prospect of a famine. Railroads were not yet in those days, but he immediately dispatched teams to Boston and brought home large quantities of rice. I well remember that a large part of my time was devoted, for some months, to dealing out rice to all his customers, far and near. How it was paid for, I do not know, as there was no money, or next to none, nearly all trade being carried on by barter or exchange."

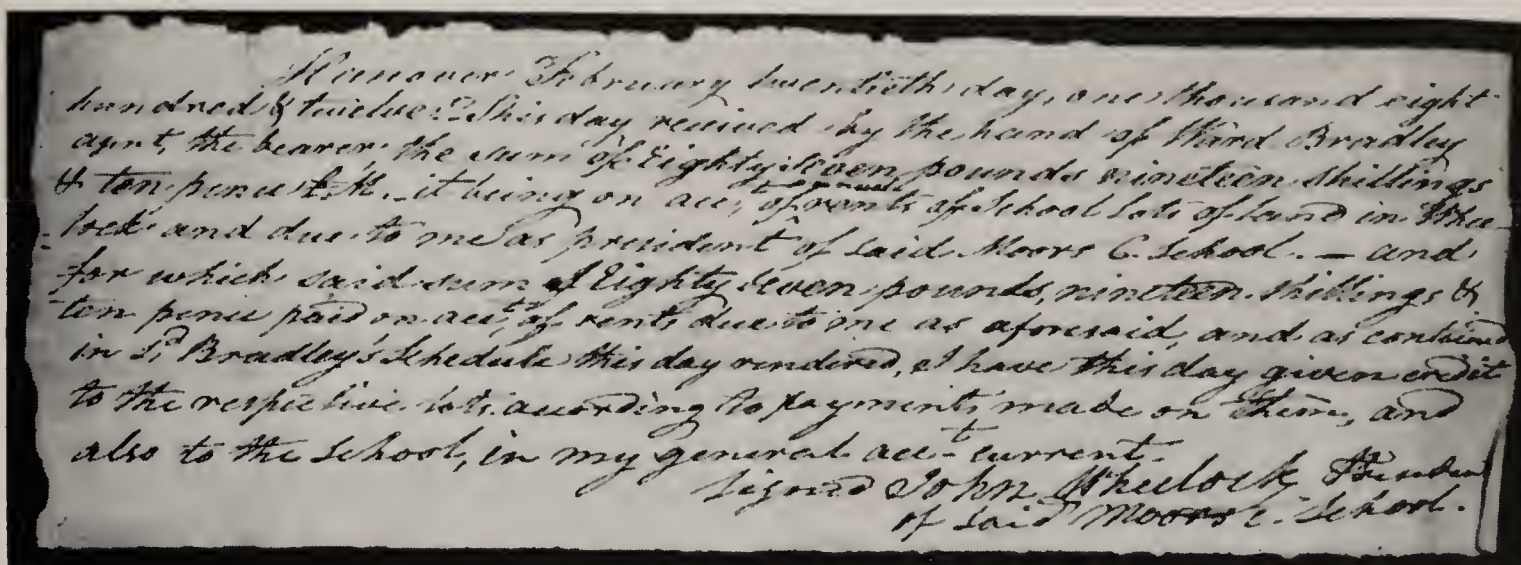
#### EXPANDING HORIZONS

On Feb. 15, 1818 Clark, Fairbanks & Co. sold its business and all its real estate to Ward Bradley, who had been conducting a store for some years in the vicinity of the Morgan farm on the County road. Mr. Fairbanks then went to East St. Johnsbury and later became senior partner in the family business, E. & T. Fairbanks of St. Johnsbury. He was organizer and first president of the Passumpsic and Connecticut Railroad. In 1852 he was elected Governor of Vermont and again in 1860, being in that office at the beginning of the War of the Union.

"During his entire life, Governor Fairbanks was active in the support of morality, political honesty, temperance and religion."

## Chapter XVI

# Wheelock Helps Educate The Indian and The White



Hanover February Twentieth day, one thousand eight hundred & twelve. This day received by the hand of David Bradley agent, the bearer, the sum of Eighty seven pounds nineteen shillings & ten pence & cts. it being on acc<sup>t</sup> of rents of school lots of land in Wheelock and due to me as president of said Moore's C. School. — and for which said sum of Eighty seven pounds nineteen shillings & ten pence paid on acc<sup>t</sup> of rents due to me as aforesaid, and as contained in S. Bradley's Schedule this day rendered, I have this day given credit to the respective lots according to payments made on them, and also to the School, in my general acc<sup>t</sup> current.

Signed John Wheelock President  
of said Moore's C. School.

After the town of Wheelock had been surveyed and settlers began to move onto the land, the chief interest of the College and School was to collect the rents. Some settlers in time bought up their lands, while others continued as leaseholders, paying yearly rental due each January first.

An agent was appointed to take charge of the rent collection. The first was Jonathan Freeman, the College treasurer. The second, Abraham Morrill, served from 1796-1799. The third, Peyton Freeman, son of Jonathan, held the office from 1800-1803.

It would seem that the work of the agent was kept track of pretty closely, by both the college treasurer and Pres. John Wheelock. Correspondence between Hanover and Wheelock had a basic theme during the seasons . . . year in, year out. PLEASE SEND WHAT MONEY YOU CAN. EXERT YOURSELF IN THE MATTER OF COLLECTIONS. THE NEEDS OF THE COLLEGE ARE PRESSING.

The original method of payments was "in silver at 6 shillings, 8 pence per ounce, or its equivalent in wheat or corn." As more and more settlers chose the latter method after their crops began to come in, it was necessary for the College to build a storehouse in Wheelock in 1807. This building is supposed to have stood near the meetinghouse on the County

Road. The agent took in wheat, or corn, as rent; stored it; sold it, where possible, to the settlers for money; then turned over the money as it accumulated during the year. All rents were due on January 1 and any grain left in the storehouse by that date was property of the College and School.

(O. D. Mathewson, Vt.-Union Journal, July 16, 1930)

In 1804 Ezra Carter of Peacham was chosen agent. Carter was a Dartmouth College graduate and had been engaged by the Trustees of the Caledonia County Grammar School to be its first preceptor, or principal, in 1797. He served in that capacity for six years, later going into business ventures in Peacham. (*Story of Peacham*, Bogart, p. 117)

Carter served as college agent until 1811, employing Abner Hoyt, Jr. of Wheelock as a local man to help in making the collections. Mr. Carter, himself, attended the actual weighing in of the wheat at the storehouse, as shown in the following account:

Aug. 17, 1805

Hon. John Wheelock in acct. with Ezra Carter, Dr. for services in the years 1804-1807, including assistance in measuring and taking in wheat Nine days at \$3.00 pr. day	
One half being Charged to the Colledge	\$13.50
Services for Colledge for the last five years 10 days	15.00



to Postage on your letters	2.30
to cash paid Indian Boy	1.00
to storing and curing wheat for the years 1810-1811 inclusive	4.50
to cash paid Ward Bradley for fencing the Otis Place	31.50

After Mr. Carter's death, Ward Bradley succeeded to the office of agent. He remained so during the stormiest years of the two institutions, experiencing the complexities and confusions of the famous Dartmouth College Case. After the equally famous Decision of 1819, Bradley continued as agent in Wheelock until 1823. He served under the presidencies of John Wheelock, Rev. Francis Brown, Dr. Daniel Dana and Dr. Bennett Tyler.

Ward Bradley received his first instructions by the hand of Bezaleel Woodward, professor at Dartmouth and an influential figure in the political circles of New Hampshire and Vermont. He brought a letter from his brother, William Woodward, treasurer of Dartmouth College:

Dartmouth College Dec. 1811

Sir,

I have employed the bearer, my brother, Bezal., to give you more instructions respecting the receiving of the rents for the Trustees of the Lessees in Wheelock.

Wish you may obtain paym't as far as conformable to the principles he may mention to you.

In behalf of the  
Trustees, your svt.,  
Wm. H. Woodward, Treas.

Among "the principles" noted in the Memo to B. Woodward are the following methods:

. . . . as to the price of wheat and the manner of receiving it by weight or measure, you will consult with Pres. Wheelock. As to receiving grain of those whose rents are in arrears, as to receiving partial payments in grain, and as to receiving anything short of what is due, consult with Pres. Wheelock. Instruct the person who receives not to give any receipt for any particular part of the land in any one lease, but let it be generally 'towards rent due on lease to' A., B., C., as the case may be. Let no receipt be given for any particular year's payment, except when nothing was due on last January's rent. Later in the month, Bradley received another

letter:

Dartmouth College Dec. 5, 1811

Sir,

By the desire of President Wheelock on behalf of Moors School and on account of the concerns of the College, I write this to inform you that we propose visitng Wheelock before Jan. and request you to give information that either we, or someone in our behalf, will attend at the storehouse in Wheelock to receive the rents as has been usual. We would thank you to post up in some public place in Wheelock a notification to that effect.

With esteem  
Your h'ble svt.  
William H. Woodward

*Dartm. College Feb 19. 1812*  
*Recd of Ward Bradley Esq. Three hundred*  
*thirty six dollars forty four cents on acct*  
*of money recd by him of Lessees of College*  
*lands in the town of Wheelock.*  
*\$336.44 Wm H. Woodward Treas*



On December 30, 1811 in Wheelock Ward Bradley received his orders as Agent, in a written form from Pres. John Wheelock as president of Moors Charity School and from Bezaleel Woodward, acting for William H. Woodward on behalf of the Trustees of Dartmouth College. Bradley was advised to follow the procedures and arrangements set down by Mr. Carter. For Bradley's personal services, \$10 would be given yearly from each institution, plus his travel expenses to and from Hanover when required.

It appears that Bradley inherited, also, a controversy between Dartmouth College and the Estate of Ezra Carter. The Carter heirs seemed to have felt that the College owed its late agent money for his past services. The College wondered if perhaps Carter had not already appropriated more "for his services" than he was entitled to. Bradley was asked to make repeated calls in Peacham to try to straighten the matter out with Probate Judge John Chandler. He mentions such a trip in a letter on March 21, 1812 to William H. Woodward. The latter makes this reply:

Dartmouth College April 20, 1812  
 . . . . When Mr. Carter was here a little more than a year ago, we spent considerable time in examining the account and feel well assured that all his incidental expenses were comprised in it, including the expenses of the Storehouse in Wheelock and charges for the expense of storage . . . .

Mr. Carter proposed for his personal services on the first of Jany. he should be allowed for the College part on account of rents on his lease, which in case no objection had been found against his account rendered as before mentioned . . . .

The correspondence on this matter continued for some time, Bradley writing on April 29, 1813 of still another trip to Peacham.

A note more hopeful to the College and School is struck in a letter of Agent Bradley to Treasurer Woodward in March 1812:

. . . . I have received about \$80 in money for rents since I was at Hanover and there is a prospect of receiving some more before June for the People have a great desire to prevent being sued if it is in their Power to git the money to hinder according to the incurragement I have. I am in hopes of making about \$1000 by the first of June, with the sum I paid over and that the President received when he was in Wheelock. If there is no disappointment I ex-

## STATE OF VERMONT.

*Caledonia County Court, Jun'y Term,  
 A. D. 1811.*

**WHEREAS** at the term aforesaid, the Trustees of Dartmouth College, at Hanover, in the State of New-Hampshire, had pending in said court their action of Ejectment against John Woodman and Simeon Glidden, of Wheelock, in said county, and Joseph Tasker, of Barnstead, in the State of New-Hampshire, to recover possession of the following lands in said Wheelock, viz. hundred & re lots numbered, 148, 177, & 178: And it does not appear to the court here, that said Tasker has had due notice of the pendency of said suit.—It is therefore ordered by the court, that this action be continued to the next term of this court to be holden at Danville, within and for said Caledonia county, on the last Monday in June next; and that the Plaintiffs cause to be published in the *North Star*, printed at Danville, the substance of their declaration, and this order of court thereon, two weeks successively; the last of which publications to be at least six weeks previous to the next term of this court, that the defendants may appear, (if they see cause) and defend said suit.

*Attest. W. A. PALMER, Clerk.*

pect to come to Hanover . . . the first of June to git two or three new leases.

So I remain, etc.,

Ward Bradley

Financial problems attending the new educational projects at Hanover had grown worse over the years, in spite of the "exertions" of the Wheelock agents. Current expenses are noted as \$4,300 in 1806, but by 1814, the income being so small, legal indebtedness had risen to \$7,500. The law suits hinted at in the above letter were actually instigated to try to recover Wheelock lots from those who had defaulted. Legal notices in the *North Star*, Danville for April 6 and April 20, 1812 show what cases had been appearing in Caledonia County in that term:

April 13, 1811

Trustees of Dartmouth College vs. John Woodman & Simeon Glidden of Wheelock and Joseph Tasker of Barnstead, N. H. to recover possession of three 100 acre lots (No. 148, 177, 178) in Wheelock . . . .

Caledonia County Court Jan. Term 1811

att. Wm. A. Palmer  
 Clerk

April 20, 1811

Trustees of Dartmouth College vs. Edward Holden, Bolton, Mass. to recover lots No. 134 & 219 in Wheelock . . . .



Received April 23<sup>d</sup> 1812 one hundred Dollars of  
 Ward Bradley to apply on the Rents which he collects  
 in Wheelock for the Hon John Wheelock Esq<sup>r</sup> as  
 President of Moors Charity School and agreeable to  
 the said Wheelock's Letter to the said Bradley by  
 the Dated April 20<sup>th</sup> 1812 also one hundred Dollars  
 Moor to apply to the Trustees of Dartmouth College  
 as above  
 Attest E. F. Willey  
 Secretary

(A list of suits and lots concerned is in the "un-classified folder" on Wheelock in the Dartmouth College Archives, Baker Library)

A postscript on a letter of President Wheelock to Ward Bradley, June 23, 1812, suggests a change of policy from the acceptance of only silver, or wheat or corn, in payment of land rents.

. . . P. S. I would take money, or wheat, or good fat beef cattle, or working oxen for annual rent on short lease, or on long lease wheat or fat beef cattle. J. W.

Perhaps the writer thought the cattle easier to come by, now that the settlers were well established and their livestock increasing. Also beef could be eaten by the college students, who often complained to their parents, as students do, that the food served them was very bad.

(*The Story of Dartmouth*, W. D. Quint)

#### AN INDIAN VISITS HIS EDUCATIONAL UNDERWRITER

Hanover Oct. 8th 1812

To Ward Bradley

Sir: I send by Noel Annance two receipts for monies which I took from Wheelock the last time I was at your house. I request you will send my receipt in return when Noel is on his

way to this place, as I expect he will return through Wheelock . . . .

Yours with great respect  
E. F. Willey

Noel Annance, a St. Francis Indian and son of a Sachem of the tribe, had been a student at Moors Indian Charity School. In August 1810 he was in the Fifth Class at the school and in the general examination had been tested on his knowledge of Cicero's Orations and the Greek Testament.

Rev. Elijah F. Willey was connected with the school and made repeated trips through the years to various Indian settlements to secure native pupils. (*Chase, History of Dartmouth College*)

Marking another year in office as agent, Bradley received this letter:

Dartmouth College Dec. 24, 1812

Sir: I presume on your calculating to attend to receive the rents in Wheelock as hitherto and hope you will prove very successful in the collections since the pressing wants of the College require it.

Will you be so good as to send what you can so that I can receive it by the 9th or 10th of next month, immediately after which I shall set forth on a journey in which I wish to use it for the College.

President Wheelock wishes me to request you to attend for him in behalf of the school. He was about to write to you himself but sup-

posed it would be sufficient for me to mention it in his behalf.

. . . . . Wm. H. Woodward Treas.

The following May, President Wheelock evidently thought a little charm would do no hurt, as he included this in his May 24th, 1813 letter to Ward Bradley, ". . . I am pleased with the prudence and careful attention indicated by the contents of your letters and returns . . . ."

Six months later, however, President Wheelock was not so happy. He had experienced one of those financial disillusionments often met with in frontier life. On October 31, 1813 he had received a visit from one William Abbott, a Wheelock lessee, who wanted "to pay L 9 rent as due the School on Lot 200." He left three bills, which President Wheelock straightway put into circulation against his debts. Not until the bills were returned did he learn that they were counterfeit. This sad news he wrote in a letter to Bradley on Nov. 2, 1813. It was again the subject of a letter of May 7, 1814:

. . . . William Abbott has done nothing about the counterfeit money. I still have it by me. I have sent to him to no effect . . . if he doesn't . . . I shall send it to Esq. Mattocks for prosecution.

It was just and proper that you remonstrate to the fiscal officer who appeared in Wheelock to afsefs the public lands of the School & College. Those lands are secured by grant and charter against all public taxes . . . .

THE UNITED STATES HAS  
NO RIGHTS IN WHELOCK

to Ward Bradley

Hanover May 17, 1814

Dr Sir

I have received your letter of the 9th inst. enclosing an account of the afsefsment of Wheelock & the public notification. I am firmly of the same opinion as expressed in my late letter to you, that the United States have no right to tax the township of Wheelock, it would be an invasion of our charter rights, which free the land from all public taxes & of course it would be an encroachment on the sovereignty of the state of whom we hold . . .

And President Wheelock instructs Bradley to please go to Craftsbury and take a true copy of the town charter from the Town Clerk's office in Wheelock and show it to the "principal Afsefsor," Mr. Crafts.

(This letter is certified by Edward Fifield, Postmaster, as having arrived "by mail" in Wheelock June 4, 1814.)

Another indication of the financial shakiness of this period in the nation's history and the uncertainties that were a part of doing business, appears in these two letters of December 1814:

Treasurer Woodward writes to Agent Bradley, Sir: I thought it unnecessary to say anything to you respecting bank bills to be rec'd for the College, presuming on your knowledge respecting them.

New York bills are *not* now good, none in the district of Maine, except Kennebunk, Saco & Augusta signed by Bridge (Pres.), the Pacific Bank, Nantucket, the Norwich bank in Connecticut, the foregoing are all now uncurrent and perhaps some other which I do not now recollect & of which you may be informed . . . send as soon as you get them, that none may die on hand.

The exigencies of the College at the present time call for uncommon urgency in collection of rents & arrears, etc . . . .

And from President Wheelock on Dec. 6, 1814 went this letter to Bradley, giving the same warning. It also marks the new custom of receiving rents in Wheelock Hollow, instead of at the Storehouse in South Wheelock.

Dart. College

Dr Sir:

Your letter of the 13 ult. arrived by mail. I can conceive of no objection to your measuring the rents in the hollow near Capt. Weeks as you propose. The difference is now trifling as to the distance in communication to be chosen, that, or the place of the granary . . . as it is not supposed any grain will be paid . . .

New York bills are not very current here; and the bills of the district of Main less so. I therefore wish you not to receive them in payment. Any of this State, Old Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut are current. These we would prefer.

I remain, dr. sr.

With sincere esteem

John Wheelock



## TOWN OF WHEELOCK

## DARTMOUTH COLLEGE AGENTS

1789-95	Jonathan Freeman, college treasurer
1796-99	Abraham Morrill
1800-1803	Peyton Freeman, son of Jonathan Freeman
1804-1811	Ezra Carter of Peacham, assisted by Abner Hoyt of Wheelock in 1806
1812-1823	Ward Bradley of Wheelock
1824-1830	William Chamberlain, professor of Greek and Latin and college treasurer
1831-1836	Dudley Clark of Wheelock
1836-1881	T. Jefferson Cree of Wheelock
1882-1883	C. H. Davis
1884-1887	William H. Taylor of Wheelock
1888-1903	B. F. Taylor of Wheelock
1909-1913	M. D. Welch of Wheelock
1914-1919	Alma Welch Grady of Wheelock
1920-1923	George Weed of Wheelock
1924	C. A. Welch of Wheelock
1925	Charles Miles of Wheelock

## Chapter XVII

# Wheelock in the War of 1812

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**IS** hereby given to the Selectmen of the several towns belonging to the second Regiment, third Brigade and fourth division of the Militia of this State, that unless they immediately comply with so much of the 33d section of the Militia Law, as provides for a supply of Military Stores in each town, they will be presented to the next County Court, to be holden at Danville, to answer for their neglect as the law directs. The Quarter-master will be particularly instructed to comply with his duty, by inspecting the Magazines in each town, by the 15th June next—Previous to which time a sufficient opportunity will be afforded for each town to send to Market and obtain the necessary supplies.

E. FIFIELD, Lieut. Col. Com.

Wheelock, May 2d, 1812.

### THE OVERTURE

The declaration of war did not come as much of a surprise to the American colonists in general, nor to the Wheelock settlers. The embargo on sea trade with the British West Indies had cut down the imports of sugar and rum. As a result, a prosperous potato whiskey business had been stimulated in the United States. Maple sugar brought high prices, also.

Augustus and Abigail Walter of Burke, Vt. received a letter from her brother, David Porter of Connecticut, urging them to take advantage of the situation.

Hartford, Connect., Sept. 23, 1813

... if the war continues your potato Whiskey will bring the Money therefore dont sell it without the pay down and begin as Early as you can get a good man for the still will be taxed after the first day of Jany.

18 for one month ) on the gallon  
32 for 2 months) of what the  
42 for 3 months) Still will

hold, so that it will cost you about \$21 for the liberty to run your Still three months, as potatoe stills go at half-price it will be best to take out license for as much time as you expect to keep going at once, for they tax lefs for a long time in proportion to a short time.

If the war lasts till next spring maple sugar will (bring) 1 s., if not 20 cts. a lb., therefore look out and make the best of your time—I am with

Much Esteem your  
friend and brother

David Porter

(*Vermont History*, Vol. XXVI No. 2,  
VHS, April 1958 pp. 12-22)

Doubtless Timothy Chamberlain of South Wheelock and Samuel Weeks of Wheelock Hollow, who were already running potato whiskey distilleries, needed no prodding. Merchants and traders in Burlington advertised regularly in the *North Star* of Danville that they would take large quantities of potato whiskey. (There were 125 distilleries in Vermont in 1810 making 173,000 gals. of whiskey—*Collins. History of Vt.*)

Lawful commerce with Canada had ceased with the Land Embargo Act of President Jefferson in 1808. This embargo was greatly resented by Vermonters, especially those near the Canadian border. It legally deprived them of a lively and profitable trade with their former neighbors. Smuggling was more or less countenanced up to the time of the declaration of war.



## BE PREPARED

In the *North Star* of May 9, 1812 this notice was posted:

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Is hereby given to the Selectmen of the several towns belonging to the second regiment, third Brigade, and fourth division of the Militia of this State, that unless they immediately comply with so much of the 33d section of the Militia Law, as provides for the supply of Military Stores in each town, they will be presented to the next County Court to be holden in Danville, to answer for their neglect as the law directs. The Quartermaster will be particularly instructed to comply with his duty, by inspecting the Magazines in each town by the 15th of June next—previous to which time a sufficient opportunity will be afforded to each town to send to Market and obtain the necessary supplies.

E. Fifield, Lieut. Col. Com.  
Wheelock, May 2d., 1812

Col. Fifield was the son of Samuel Fifield, one of the original lessees of Wheelock, whose pitched lots were No. 132 and No. 133, later known as the N. Youngman farm in the Sherburn Neighborhood. Samuel came of a notable military background and, himself, served in the Revolutionary War. He lived in Gilmanton, N. H. and, later, in East Kingston, N. H. He married as his second wife, Ruth Bean of Gilmanton and Edward was their third child and second son. Edward, born in Gilmanton Dec. 21, 1775, probably accompanied his father to Norwich, Vt., prior to both coming to Wheelock in 1796. In 1779 or 1800 Edward married Sarah Bean, daughter of Col. John Bean of Wheelock. In 1806 Col. Bean conveyed his Wheelock land to his son-in-law, who continued to run the home place as Fifield's Tavern. This stood next north of the meeting house on the County Road and the adjacent meadow served as a June Training parade ground.

## SAMSON, DELILAH, AND THE SPIRIT OF '76

An account of the local brand of Green Mountain patriotism was published in the *North Star* for Saturday, June 6, 1812, from which this excerpt is taken:

. . . sufficient to arouse the sacred spirit of '76, which is neither 'dead nor sleepeth' in the bosom of the Green-Mountain Boys when their

country calls to arm, and proved to a demonstration, that the *Delilah* of modern 'Washington Benevolence' has not yet shorn the American Samson of his locks: More than the quota required immediately volunteered . . . . . We heard that the respective quotas in St. Johnsbury, Lyndon, Wheelock, Cabot, Groton and Topsham volunteered their services, in several of which towns the ardor was so great that it was with difficulty determined who should not be received.

Other themes in the overture to war are described by O. D. Mathewson in an article for the Jan. 31, 1931 issue of the *Vermont-Union Journal*, Lyndonville, from which much of this chapter is taken.

"On April 10, 1812 Congress had authorized the President of the United States to detach 100,000 of militia to be organized and held in readiness to march at a minute's notice and to serve six months after arriving at the place of rendezvous. On April 28, 1812 the Secretary of War apportioned 3000 of this number to the State of Vermont. Pursuant to this requisition, Gov. Galusha on May 1, 1812 ordered a detachment of 3000 of the Vermont militia to form one brigade of four regiments, each comprised of ten companies . . . eight of infantry, one of cavalry, and one of artillery. Maj. Gen. William Cahoon of Lyndon, who commanded one of the four divisions of the militia, was ordered to detach 260 officers and men from the first brigade, making four companies, to be joined by a detachment from Maj. Gen. Lewis R. Morris's division, and to detach 867 officers and men and form them into an entire regiment. It is probably this regiment that Col. Edward Fifield of Wheelock commanded, although the records leave the matter indefinite."

When news of the declaration of war with England on June 18, 1812 reached Danville, the following appeared in the *North Star* for Saturday, June 27:

## WAR IN EARNEST

Brig. General J. Mattocks of Peacham issues Brigade Orders that the several regiments of the third Brigade, fourth Division of the Militia of this State be reviewed on their several regimental parades . . . the second, commanded by Col. EDWARD FIFIELD, on Thursday, the 15th (July) . . . . .  
Peacham June 25th

Soon after the declaration of war became known, representatives of towns on the northern border of the state asked assistance in defending themselves against possible attack from Indians and others in Canada.

Brig. Gen. John Mattocks sent to Gov. Jonas Galusha for instructions. He was informed that the Brigade would receive 150 stand of arms, from an allotment of the general Government to the Vermont Militia. But even before receiving the Governor's orders, volunteers had marched to the aid of Troy and Derby. Perhaps a trifle too willingly, as this letter from the citizens of Derby might indicate. Yet many of the volunteers were veterans of the Revolutionary War, or sons of veterans, and here was another chance to prove themselves.

#### INTELLIGENCE FROM THE LINE

We congratulate our fellow citizens on the pacific disposition of our neighbors in the Province and cheerfully publish the following to quell the fears that may have arisen of a depredatory or bloody incursion of the savages at present on our northern border. It is likewise highly honorary to those patriotic troops from Danville, Wheelock, Sheffield, St. Johnsbury, Lyndon and Barnet, to whom it is addressed. (*North Star* July 11, 1812)

Derby, July 6, 1812

In committee composed of members from the several towns of Derby, Holland and Morgan—  
RESOLVED, That the thanks of the committee, in the name of the inhabitants, be returned to the officers and soldiers now in this place, for the promptitude and alacrity which they have shown in turning out and marching for the defence of the inhabitants on the frontier; and further, for their gentlemanlike and peaceable conduct, and while with hearts filled with gratitude, we tender them our highest respects, we have resolved that at the present crisis of our affairs we do not consider ourselves in immediate danger and therefore consider it unnecessary to detain the present force which has kindly come to our assistance. Considering that those who have so generously volunteered and marched to our defence are anxious to return to their families and business, we recommend to their officers their return home with our best wishes and lively gratitude towards them. We also hope that they will always be ready to assist us and be true to their country. In behalf of the committee,

LUTHER LEELAND, Moderator  
Eber Robinson, Clerk

"From the town records, it seems clear," wrote O. D. Mathewson, "that Wheelock sent 17 men to the frontier and that they served six days. It is unfortunate that the names of the volunteers were not found. However, in a warning for a town meeting to be held Oct. 3, 1812, appeared this item: 'To see if the town will make the Soldiers any Compensation that went to the Line Last July in the Indian War.' The town 'voted to Give the Soldiers fifty Cents per Day for going to the Line Last June or July'."

The town accounts for March 1813 show these items of military nature:

The powder tax so called amounts to \$132.51  
Bought of Story and Lovel

64 lbs. powder	64.00
137 lbs. lead	2.25
Bought of Israel J. Conerk	
200 lbs. lead musket balls	40.00
180 flints	6.30
Bought of Riley and Clark	
76 flints	1.52
	<hr/>
	\$114.07

Which is to be deducted from the above	18.40
The town tax for the year	
1812 amounted to	205.76
The town received from the State	59.25
	<hr/>
	\$265.01

Paid the soldiers for going to	
Derby in July 1812	\$ 50.00
Paid Lyndon Hines for gun	
and equipment	16.00
Paid John Chase for Chest for Magazine	2.50
Paid Thomas Noyes for	
Bringing balls from Danville	1.00
Paid Walter Hoyt for going	
to Derby with baggage	2.00

Later, the state legislature appropriated money to reimburse the towns that had furnished volunteers at Troy, Derby and Canaan. The town of Wheelock received from this appropriation:

For 102 days at Derby at 50 cents	\$51.00
For 17 rations at 20 cts.	3.40
For Powder and balls	5.00
	<hr/>
	\$59.40

also Money Drawn from the	
Treasurer of the State for	
Camp Equipment, Etc. to	
Carry to Derby	\$29.87



## THE DETACHED MILITIA

We learn that Colonel Fifiel received orders last week from the Governor to march three companies of his regiment to Derby and that he has accordingly notified them to be at the place of Rendezvous on the 16th instant. We learn, likewise, the Colonel received orders on Wednesday night last by an express from the GOVERNOR to march the remaining five companies of his regiment immediately to Burlington.

(*North Star* Sept. 5, 1812)

The reason for this assignment was that, even after the declaration of war, active smuggling across the border had not ceased, although now it was an act of "giving comfort to the enemy." Vermont farmers and cattle dealers continued to find it very profitable to run livestock over the more or less unpatrolled border. Storekeepers in the border towns claimed that their goods were necessities to nearby Canadian settlers, who had no other source of supply and were accustomed to trade with them.

Col. Fifiel's regiment was stationed at Swanton "to guard the frontier," the chief activity being apprehending American smugglers.

In 1817 "an act to pay Lt. Col. Edward Fifiel \$1112.23 for losses sustained by him in consequence of his faithful discharge of the duties imposed on him by a law of this State entitled, 'an act to prevent intercourse with the enemies of this and the United States on the northern frontier' " was entered in the Public Laws of Vermont (p. 470).

After the war, Col. Fifiel sold out his property in Wheelock. With his wife and family he moved to Conneaut, Ohio, where he died Oct. 17, 1836. His wife died Apr. 23, 1863. Many of their descendants live in Ohio and neighboring states.

## MEN OF 1812

The following men from Wheelock have been identified as serving in Capt. Samuel Wheeler's Company (St. Johnsbury), Col. Fifiel's Regiment:

Name	Length of Service
David Brainard	6 mos. 4 days
Robert Brown	6 mos. 4 days
Lawton Corey	6 mos. 4 days
Meshach Darling	6 mos. 4 days
Jacob Foss	6 mos. 4 days
William Gray	3 mos. 16 days
Samuel Hemmingway	6 mos. 4 days
Samuel Miles, drummer	2 mos. 18 days
Joseph Meserve	3 mos. 16 days
Eli B. Magoon	3 mos. 4 days

Samuel Otis	6 mos. 4 days
John Willey, Jr.	6 mos. 4 days
Winthrop Young	6 mos. 4 days

In addition, Wheelock is entitled to count these who served from other towns during the War of 1812 and later lived here: Benjamin Carter, David Felker, Jonas Flagg, Jr., Samuel Follett, Jonathan Miles and Joshua Otis.

"There is but little known concerning most of the soldiers of the War of 1812," wrote O. D. Mathewson, who, with the help of records searched by Judge William H. Taylor, presented these biographical sketches.

DAVID BRAINARD came from Plymouth, N. H. and was living in Wheelock as early as 1803. He died in 1815, it is supposed. The records of March 1815 show that he was helped by the town to the extent of \$26 and his widow received \$2. He lived on the Brackett place at the head of the cross-road running past the A. J. Heath place. (The cellar hole was visible in 1931)

ROBERT BROWN was one of the original lessees and came to town about 1796. His "pitch" was Lot No. 120 in "Piperville." He was elected Hayward in 1796 and Highway Surveyor in 1798, 1800, 1801-1810, and 1813. On Nov. 30, 1813 Col. Edward Fifiel and John Elkins advertised in the *North Star* a meeting of the Commissioners of his estate. His wife's name was Lois. They had eight children born between 1792 and 1807. They are recorded in Book I of the town records.

BENJAMIN CARTER of Boscawen, N. H. came to Wheelock from Canterbury, N. H. in 1814. He had seen service in the Revolutionary War. He enlisted in 1813 from Canterbury in Capt. John Butterfield's Company, New Hampshire troops. On Sept. 6, 1814 he enrolled as a volunteer on the alarm at Plattsburgh and took part in that engagement, serving in Capt. Lott Woodworth's Artillery Company, Col. Rice's Regiment, New York Militia. He was discharged Sept. 22, 1814, receiving \$4 as pay. He came directly to Wheelock then. He died Nov. 1, 1814 at the age of fifty years and was buried in the "old" cemetery, from which his body was later removed to the village cemetery. He had five children, one of whom, Betsey, married Col. John Chase of Wheelock, grandfather of Ferd Chase, Loon Lake, N. Y.

LAWTON COREY came to Wheelock about 1811. He took the Freeman's Oath Sept. 1, 1811 before John Bean, Jr. This is the only mention found of him in the town records.

MESHACH DARLING was the son of Moses Darling, a soldier of the Revolutionary War. He lived on the farm near Chandler Pond, where William Henry Jones lived in the 1870's. In 1825 he was commissioned by Gov. Van Ness Captain of a company of light infantry in the 2nd regiment, 2nd brigade, 4th division of the State Militia. He was born Feb. 12, 1792 and died Jan. 10, 1843 and is buried in the South Wheelock cemetery. He married Dec. 6, 1821 Sarah, daughter of Samuel and Betsey (Clement) Carter. They had three children, Ferdinand, John and Lucy.

DAVID FELKER is thought to have been the father of Jesse B. Felker, a well-known character in Wheelock Village. Jesse was born in Madison, Me. and his wife, Mary, in Saco, Me., as appears in the record of their son, Alphonse Felker, who was born April 12, 1861. Jesse was a blacksmith and brick mason. The story is told of him that when he laid an arch for Charles Mathewson in the sugar place, (later known as the Ward sugar place) he said with a deep voice for which he was noted, as he began to work, "Brick; mort; rum; bring me first that which I spoke of last." He laid the arch.

JONAS FLAGG, JR. was the son of Jonas Flagg who served in the Revolutionary War. He enlisted in Haverhill, N. H. July 27, 1812, as a private in Capt. E. H. Mahuriri's Company and served six months. He was born in Belmont, N. H. March 29, 1790 and came to Wheelock from Groton, N. H. about 1832, going to his father's farm in West Wheelock. His daughter, Lucy, married William Folsom (the father of Jonas F. Folsom) on April 6, 1869. She is buried in West Wheelock cemetery.

SAMUEL FOLLETT enlisted May 31, 1813 in Capt. Benjamin Bradford's Company, Col. McCobb's Regiment for one year. He probably came to Wheelock from Massachusetts. He lived on the left hand side of the road leading from the brook road to the Samuel Allen place (later owned by O. D. Mathewson). The cellar hole may still be seen. He died Jan. 4, 1850 at the age of 82 and is buried in Wheelock village cemetery, where a large natural boulder marks his grave.

JACOB FOSS came to Wheelock about 1811. He lived in the Chandler Pond Neighborhood and ran the sawmill. He was elected Hayward in 1812 and Highway Surveyor in 1815. About 1821 he removed to Barnet, Vt., where he died. He is buried in the South Wheelock cemetery. His granddaughter, Mrs. Abram Daniels, was the mother of Martin E. Daniels, later of Lyndonville. Jacob had two brothers, Nathaniel and Joshua, in the War of 1812.

WILLIAM GRAY has left no positive record, although there was a William Gray taxed in Wheelock in 1808 and elected Highway Surveyor in 1816.

SAMUEL HEMMINGWAY came to Wheelock from New Marlborough, N. H. about 1805. He was taxed in the town in 1806 and until 1809. He voted in 1808.

JONATHAN S. MILES was a son of Josiah Miles and was born in Sanbornton, N. H. July 24, 1788. He came to Wheelock with his parents as early as 1798 and lived there until his death July 3, 1873. He married Joanna, daughter of Peter and Rebecca (Hoegg) Coffran. He lived on the old road leading from the Joseph Hoyt place (where L. J. Woolley later lived) past the Peter Coffran place (James Ryan later lived) out through the pasture, south to the edge of Lyndon (where Aola Sprague lived later). He enlisted in the U. S. Army Feb. 22, 1813 for 18 months and was assigned to the 21st Infantry. He is buried in Wheelock village cemetery.

SAMUEL MILES may have been a son of Josiah Miles, but is not in the list of Josiah's children in the History of Sanbornton, N. H., from which he came to Wheelock. Samuel was taxed in town in 1803 and until 1809. He took the Freeman's Oath in 1801 and was elected Hayward in 1809.

JOSEPH MESERVE bought Lot No. 151 on May 14, 1810 and describes himself as of Barnstead, N. H. He took the Freeman's Oath in 1812. He does not appear to be a direct ancestor of the later Meserve family in town.

ELI B. MAGOON was the son of Edward Magoon of Acton, Me. Capt. Edward Magoon and Eli Magoon both voted in town in 1809. Eli was born April 9, 1788 and died Sept. 7, 1814. He married Katherine Sanborn.



JOSHUA OTIS, born March 30, 1764 served in the Revolutionary War. He was one of the original lessees, settling Lot 104, the Smith Porter farm. He came to Wheelock as early as 1794 from Barrington, N. H. He married Lydia Meader Jan. 15, 1788. Before 1808 (?) he removed to Danville and while living there enlisted in the War of 1812. He later moved to Peacham, where he lived about 15 years, and later to Parishville, N. Y., where he died Mar. 4, 1834. He served six months during the first year of the war in Capt. Joseph Morrill's Company, Col. Fifiield's Regiment.

SAMUEL OTIS, son of Joshua Otis, was born Dec. 16, 1792. He married Lucy Ayer, who bore him 15 children. He voted in Wheelock in 1810

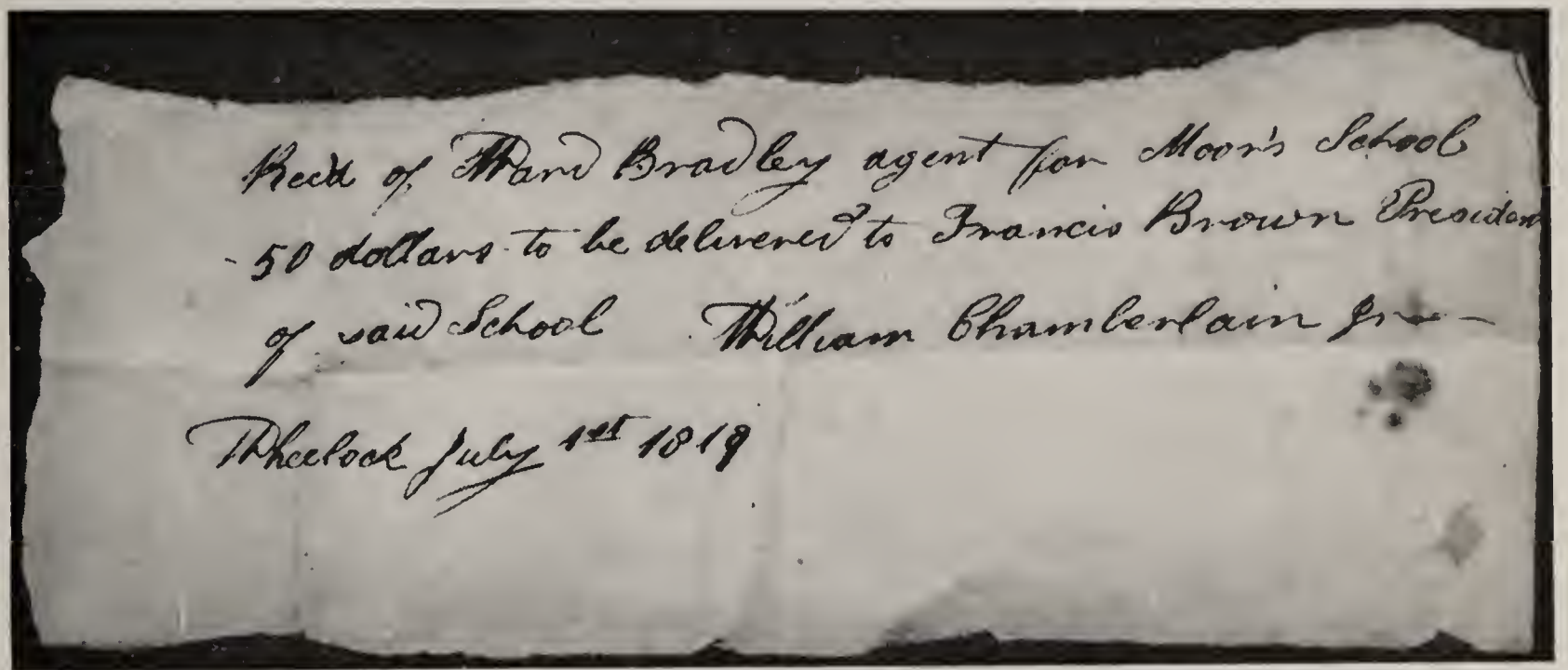
and was taxed in 1811 and 1812. He later moved to St. Lawrence County, New York.

JOHN WILLEY, JR., son of John, was born Dec. 10, 1788 and married Sarah Berry Nov. 15, 1809.

WINTHROP YOUNG was the son of a well-known Baptist minister of Barrington, N. H., the Rev. Winthrop Young. He was born about 1782 and died in St. Johnsbury, Vt. Dec. 18, 1867. He married Polly Cochran Oct. 25, 1804. He was taxed in Wheelock in 1806, when he paid a town tax of \$1.06; a school tax of \$1.06; and a state tax of \$.33. He voted in 1808 and 1810. He was a "sealer of leather" from 1809-1815, when he appears to have removed from town.

## Chapter XVIII

# The Dartmouth College Case Wheelock During Interregnum



Chase wrote in the *History of Dartmouth College* that, as late as 1815, rents from the township comprised at least one half of the permanent fund, both of the College and the School, its annual rents being about \$1400, one half of which accrued to the benefit of the College, whose other rents and income from all other sources, including the Phillips Fund, very little exceeded \$700.

1815 was the year in which the long-simmering aversion to Pres. John Wheelock and everything the Wheelock name stood for, boiled over into the public view, the courts of New Hampshire and the nation. The college treasurer was, no doubt, encouraged to receive in January 1815 Wheelock rents in behalf of the college to the amount of \$70.25. On June 14, 1815 Ward Bradley, agent, turned over \$485.15 in land rents for Moors Charity School. These partial rents in some measure helped to meet the added "current expense."

On Sept. 15, 1815 President Wheelock wrote to Bradley from Dartmouth, saying that he had no doubt heard of

. . . the Board of Trustees pretending to remove me from the office of President of this Institution. I have utterly denied their right of jurisdiction on that decision & I still consider myself by Charter & by Law the rightful president of the Seminary. As president, therefore, of Moor's Charity School, I hereby desire you to continue in my name to collect and receive the rents of the school land in Wheelock for me only, as president of the same & to notify all in that town, who hold leases of the School, that no receipts given them for payments of rents will be considered as valid in their favor, unless rec'd of you as agent of me as president of said School . . . Should the Trustees appoint Rev. Francis Brown, or any other . . .

Those paying them shall do so at their own risk.



The opposite view on this tender subject was set forth in a communication sent to Bradley from

Dartmouth College Sept. 28, 1815  
 . . . notice to be given to the tenants of Land in the town of Wheelock belonging to Moor's Charity School, that Doct. John Wheelock ceased to be President of Dartmouth College and Moor's Charity upon the twenty-sixth day of August last and to forbid said tenants to pay any rent or monies for said land in the future to said Wheelock . . .

Wm. H. Woodward  
 On Dec. 9, 1815 Rev. Francis Brown, the new president of Dartmouth College and Moor's Charity School, appointed James R. Wheelock, another son of the founder, as the one to post the above notice.

But no matter who was president of what, or that there was now a Dartmouth University, sponsored by the State of New Hampshire, and a private Dartmouth College holding classes in "loyal" Hanover homes . . . each teaching young male students in the same town . . . the matter of demanding money from the old sources persisted.

On Nov. 21, 1815 this letter went to Ward Bradley:

Dart. College  
 . . . to excite to exertion on your part and on the part of the Lessees, it is perhaps unnecessary to repeat the old story of the necessities of the College, but I must say that the wants of the Treasury are peculiarly pressing and that I hope you will make every exertion possible to increase the payment towards arrears.

Should you be enabled to make remittance before Jan. it would I assure you be very welcome. Let me hear from you as to the prospects of payment . . .

Wm. H. Woodward  
 Whether by extraordinary "exertion," or just in the common course of events, Ward Bradley sent \$198.73 in rents to the College on May 29, 1816. The Dartmouth College Case was underway at this time.

#### AN IMPORTANT CASE

On April 30, 1816, John Wheelock's secretary, Joseph Perry, had had instructions to write to Ward Bradley:

. . . the President wishes you also to receive the School rents in Wheelock if possible. The Pres't would have written you but sickness prevents. Everything looks favorable for a new organization of the College. Time will soon determine the fate of Dartmouth College, whether it is to be for the sole benefit of a Sect, or for all orders & descriptions of men. This is an important case. I trust the Good People of New Hampshire will do themselves proud in deciding upon it.

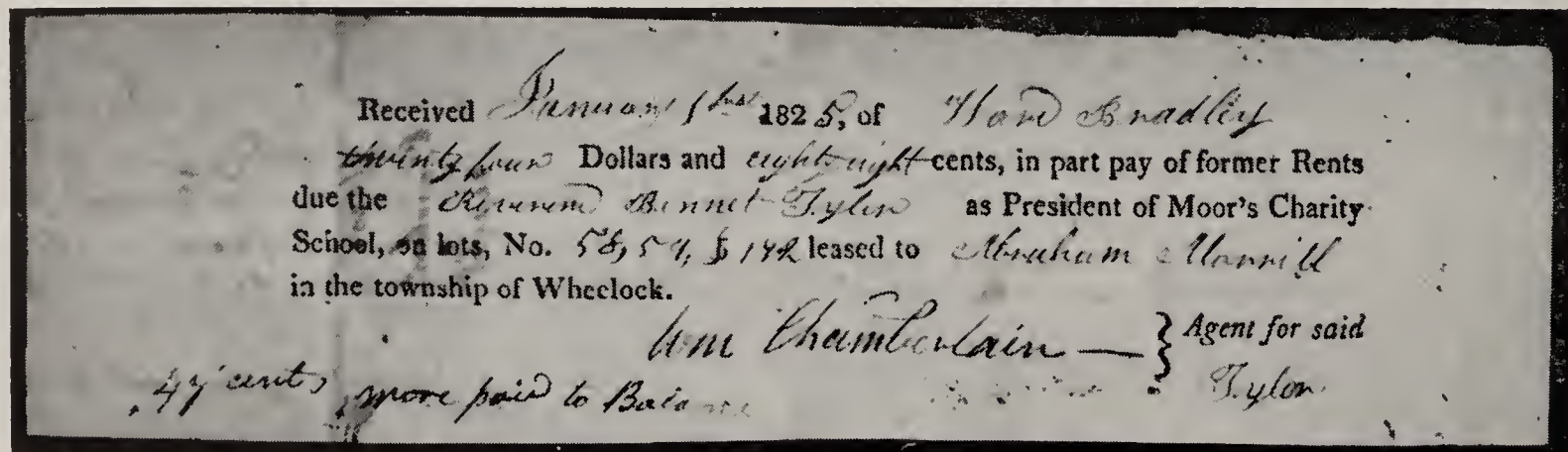
The President wishes to be remembered to you

very cordially  
 With sentiments of respect  
 Your friend and humble servant

Joseph Perry

On Jan. 25, 1817 William H. Woodward acknowledged receipt of \$120 towards College rents from Wheelock lessees.

Expanding the picture further, Judge Asa Aikens in his OPINION (*Ms. State Papers of Vermont Vol. 75, p. 49*) stated: "from 1815, soon after the commencement of the controversy between the Trustees of Dartmouth College & the State of New Hampshire, payment of the rents (to the school) was suspended by the Tenants, they not knowing whom to pay to, and were not resumed again, to any considerable amount, till 1823, owing to that controversy & the interregnum in the Presidency occasioned by the removal of Doctr. Wheelock, the death of President Brown, the declension of Doctr. Spring and the resignation of President Dana, events which followed each other in such rapid succession as to create a virtual interregnum in the College & consequently in the school. During this time large arrearages occurred, and considerable sums were lost by deaths & failure, or removal, of tenants.





Several Leases were forfeited, also possession had to be regained by suits at law. Soon after the accession of Doctr. Tyler to the presidency in 1823, payments were renewed, and the actual receipts since that period have varied from \$275 to \$450 per annum." (for the school)

During the famous Dartmouth College Case, Pres. Francis Brown had kept Ward Bradley, agent, informed of developments as they transpired. On May 4, 1819 he wrote to Ward Bradley (*Dartmouth College Archives*):

"The Trustees have held their meeting. They presume that after the inhabitants of Wheelock have had time to consider & to get information, they will readily make payments according to their ability. And there is no disposition unreasonably to crowd or press any individual, but all will be indulged as far as can be done consistently with the indispensable necessities of the College and School. But heavy expenses, in both departments, have been incurred & the monies for discharging them must be immediately raised. There must be no more delay. . . . if payments are not made by the first of next month, measures will be taken . . . an agent has been appointed . . . to commence suits early in June, if necessary . . ."

The temper of the Wheelock "inhabitants" is clear from this letter received by Ward Bradley later in the summer . . . also the temper of the President of Dartmouth College.

Dart. College Aug. 24, 1819

Sir: I have received your letter & I am sorry for the report you give.

It seems to me childish to give any more notices to the people of Wheelock. And all I can say is, that if they do not make speedy payment according to their abilities, they must expect to hear from us in a way that will occasion them trouble of cost.

I am, sir, your

Francis Brown

### THE SLIPPERY STUFF

On Nov. 8, 1819 Mills Olcott of Dartmouth College requested a schedule of college rents that Ward Bradley had paid to Judge William Woodward in previous years. Bradley sent the following:

1812	\$553.30
1813	452.84
1814	849.95
1815	642.14
1816	569.13

That keeping all these accounts was not any easy task, in spite of the yearly recompense of \$10 from each, the College and School, is hinted in another letter of Bradley to Olcott, July 2, 1819:

. . . but had the headache so bad that I was not able to make out a schedule of what I had Rec'd as I ought to have done had I been well. . . . I always used to make my Calculations to Keep the money on hand when Collected to Send on any notice but money being Slipery Stuff and not knowing when it would be called for it Sliped away money is Verry Scarce here at present . . .

### TURNED OUT OF DOORS

The Wheelock townspeople's view of the Dartmouth College Case and its effect on the settlement of the town was set forth in a petition presented by the selectmen to the President of Moors Charity School and Trustees in January 1820. (*Dartmouth College Trustees Records*)

To the Rev. Francis Brown President of Moore Charity School and

To the Hon. Trustees of Dartmouth College we the Subscribers for and in behalf of the Inhabitants of the town of Wheelock Beg Leave to Represent to your Honours that in Consequence of the Dispute between you and the State of Newhampshire Respecting the ownership of

Rec'd Feb 7 1822 of Ward Bradley Esq - One hundred  
eighty seven 3/4 Dollars as collected from tenants in  
Wheelock for the Trustees of Dartmouth College -  
\$187.37  
Mills Olcott Secy.





A testimonial on the same states:

The above named petitioner is a respectable and useful citizen of Wheelock & has contributed much to the settlement—of the western part of the town over the mountain—from six to seven miles from mechanics, schools, meetings, etc.

There are now Thirteen Families over the mountain, constituting half the town. These Families are most very poor—two Families are transient and trespassers. Formerly 26 Families who have been sued out, or left of themselves



## Chapter XIX

# The Era of Good Feeling

*Rev. Nathan Lord of Amherst has been appointed  
President of Dartmouth College in place of Pres.  
Tyler, resigned . . . .  
Farmer's Herald, St. Johnsbury Sept. 2, 1828*

This public announcement, in a newspaper that served Wheelock readers as well as those of its native town, would seem to prophesy an era of good feeling between the College and its tenants. The interregnum was over. The confusions and law suits would become only memories. The tenants were prospering and the College, although established, was still in dire need of all the money it could raise in land rents.

Dr. Lord of Amherst, N. H., after his inauguration on October 29, began to try a new and more conciliatory method with the Wheelock tenants. A young man of 35, he still retained energy and hope, combined with a mature business sense. His green tinted glasses may have concealed from his students the true expression in his eye, but his actions indicated a shrewd and purposeful administrator.

One of his first moves was to close the Indian School, or Moors Charity School, with the consent of the Board of Trustees in August 1829, so as to let the rent money from the Wheelock leases be applied to the accumulated debts of the school. (*Asa Aiken's OPINION, October 1832*) This went on until 1832, when the school was ready to reopen.

Dr. Lord revived John Wheelock's custom of visiting the town of Wheelock in person on January First to witness and receive the land rents from the leaseholders. He continued the custom of offering a tot of rum to ease the pain of payment and thus encouraged the reluctant to come to the Brick Tavern and clear their debts. He used the downstairs room at the right of the front entrance as an office and slept in the room directly overhead during his annual visit.

In his memoirs, Ferd Chase recalls that Dr. Lord was very thoughtful of all the tenants, calling each by name and inquiring for the health of a man's neighbors, or relatives, if they chanced to be absent. He seemed to be especially friendly to the boys and, no doubt, enjoyed with them the contests and sporting events that made a holiday of January First.

In addition to caring for the physical welfare of

the tenants, Dr. Lord also took time to shore up their spiritual well-being by delivering a sermon in the Hollow church each visit. If January First fell on a Saturday, he would preach the following day; if it fell in the middle of the week, he would prolong his stay so as to include a Sunday service. The affairs, spiritual and temporal, being completed for the year, Dr. Nathan Lord would then return in his private conveyance to Hanover, accompanied by other college officials, such as Daniel R. Blaisdell, College Treasurer. Behind them down the seventy-odd miles of road would trail the livestock and the wagons of grain, butter, sugar, or other farm products that had been offered as rent in lieu of cash.

Mr. Blaisdell (who was not such a favorite with Ferd Chase and other boys of the village of that time) later recalls his early visits to Wheelock in a letter of Mar. 28, 1862 to Judge T. J. Cree:

"I have been so long acquainted with your citizens and have always been treated with such uniform kindness, notwithstanding the annoying business in which I am engaged there, that I have come to feel a real interest in whatever concerns the welfare of the town, and to regard the citizens of it as my personal friends. Indeed, I do not know why it should be otherwise.

"When I first came to Wheelock in the winter of 1833-6, there was a strong feeling arising from a sense of wrong suffered by the tenants, though Mr. Perley had done much to allay it by the judicious course he pursued. I endeavored to treat everyone with all the forbearance and consideration that the interests of the college would permit. I was met by the tenants in a corresponding spirit, and the result has been, that after many years, we see the arrears, then so heavy, now almost entirely discharged, and the town in a comparatively prosperous condition. To me this is matter of unqualified gratification, for it enables me to look on the prosperity of my friends. As such I shall always regard the citizens of Wheelock."

*(Private Collection of Letters of the Cree Family)*

## A MEASURE OF CONCILIATION

A contributing factor to the easing of tensions in this new era is noted in the Trustees Records:

At an adjourned meeting of the College Trustees October 1834, Mr. Parker gave a report of his committee's visit to Wheelock, at which time they met with a committee of citizens in an effort to straighten out "their supposed grievances." The committee, after due consideration of the whole subject, recommended the adoption of these three resolutions "as a measure of conciliation":

*Resolved* That when at any time within two years the whole of the rent due on any lease shall be paid, the whole or any part, not less than one dollar of the annual rent received thereon, may be discharged by paying on the first of January to the Trustees a sum the annual interest on which shall be equal to the rent so discharged.

*Resolved* That when the rent due on any lease shall be paid, the lease may be surrendered, & several leases given to the occupants of parcels of the land: provided that the rent received on the several leases shall be in proportion to the several parcels of land leased & no parcel so leased shall be less in quantity than twenty-five acres.

*Resolved* That when at any time within two years all rents due on any lease shall be paid & the lease shall be surrendered by the lessee, or lessees, assignee or assignees, a new lease of the "pitched land" may be given for the residue of the term, at a rent payable on the first day of January then next, which shall bear the same proportion to the whole rent before received that the quantity of pitched land bore to the whole land demised by the former lease, provided that at the same time a good title to the "draw land" shall be conveyed to the Trustees, by surrender or otherwise.

(*Dartmouth College Trustee Records*)

Judge Asa Aikens, in his Opinion on the validity of the right of Moors Charity School to land in Wheelock, writes, Oct. 20, 1832:

"... The Undersigned deems it an act of justice due to Dr. Lord, the President of the College & school, to testify to the Legislature, the respectful consideration he has given to the resolution of this House, and the frankness and candour with which he has afforded the facilities to the investigation which it required.

## A DELICATE RELATIONSHIP

The era of good feeling spread its influence in a wider circle than that encompassing Hanover, N. H. and Wheelock, Vt. On Apr. 8, 1857 when the Dartmouth College Alumni of Boston and Vicinity held their quarterly meeting, they passed several resolutions urging the Trustees of the College to establish scholarships and merit prizes for the students. The funds might come, suggested the alumni, from the land grants made to the college by New Hampshire and Vermont.

If the income from the Second College Grant from New Hampshire could be used for students from that state, they wondered "whether the income from the town of Wheelock might not be appropriated in like manner to young men from Vermont." (*Dartmouth College Trustees Report on Scholarships, Little, Brown & Co., Boston 1858 p. 5*)

In his reply to this memorial, Dr. Lord took the view that such an action would be sure to upset the delicate balance of peace he had taken years to adjust. (*ibid.* pp. 10-12)

"In one respect the Vermont and New Hampshire Grants are not parallel. Vermont gave to the College a moiety of the township of Wheelock for general purposes: the New Hampshire grant contemplated the specific benefit of indigent students belonging to the State.

"But it is questionable whether a grant, originally made for general purposes, and used accordingly for more than half a century and still sufficient to meet the current expenses of the College, could now be rightfully sequestered to specific uses not specified in the deed of gift, and are not necessary to the direct support of the institution, or likely ever to be materially beneficial in that respect.

"If this could be done rightfully, yet, in the judgment of your Committee, it would be of doubtful expediency . . . because

"In view of the delicate relation of the college to the State of Vermont" and the jealousy of many citizens of Vermont because of the benefit the college has received by the grant, which have brought about legal action, suits, etc. . . a granting of a scholarship for Vermont men might be construed as a "lure to seek their education at Dartmouth, rather than at the Colleges in their State . . . Unworthy strife, instead of present friendship, would be likely to ensue."



There is no mention here that Dr. Lord had privately encouraged the same idea of scholarships while paying one of his yearly visits to Wheelock. As recalled by townsfolk in later years, he is supposed to have said, "Whenever any Wheelock boys are ready for college, send them along and there will be free tuition." This remark led, some fifty years later, to the first request for a scholarship by O. D. Mathewson in 1886.

Unlike the Alumni of Boston and Vicinity in 1858, O. D. Mathewson was not disappointed when he appealed to the Trustees of Dartmouth College in 1930 to have a scholarship established on a permanent basis. The whole story is told in these two letters that were published in the Vermont-Union Journal, Lyndonville, May 14, 1930.

Lyndon Institute  
Lyndon Center, Vt.  
April 25, 1930

Dr. Ernest M. Hopkins  
President of Dartmouth College  
Hanover, N. H.  
My dear President Hopkins,

I have had it in mind for a long time to write you a letter asking you to request the trustees of Dartmouth College to grant a full tuition scholarship to any son of Wheelock, either by birth or residence, who may desire to enter Dartmouth College, provided he presents evidence of adequate preparation and comes suitably recommended. I feel, that in view of what the town of Wheelock did for the college in a financial way in its early days, the request is a reasonable one.

As you know, there was a time when the college was largely dependent upon rents collected in Wheelock. From about 1830-1860, Pres. Lord used to go personally to Wheelock to collect the rents. He used to say that if any Wheelock boy wished to attend Dartmouth, he might do so with no charge for tuition.

When I wished to go to Dartmouth, two or three old men (*one of them, Horace Bradley, grandson of Ward Bradley*) of the village told me what President Lord used to say and suggested that I write President Bartlett to that effect. Instead of writing him myself, I asked William H. Taylor, D. C. '86, to write him for me. He did so and received a prompt reply from President Bartlett, which closed with, substantially, these words, "Any promise President Lord ever made, Dartmouth College stands ready to make good. Send the boy along." Relying on this, I went and President Bartlett made his promise good.

Now Wheelock has never sent many boys to Dartmouth and probably never will, but I think it would be a graceful act on the part of Dartmouth to have such a scholarship as I propose open to its boys.

As far as I know, William H. Taylor, '86, later Justice of the Supreme Court of Vermont; Ozora Davis, '89, President of Chicago Theological Seminary; and myself are the only Wheelock boys to graduate from Dartmouth. Two thirds of them certainly make good.

How does this appeal to you, President Hopkins?

I am not making this request with any possible candidate in mind and it may be years before one will appear, asking for such a scholarship, in case the trustees see fit to establish it. I had thought to have this request come in the form of a petition to the trustees and have it signed by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Davis and myself, but Mr. Taylor is dead, Mr. Davis incapacitated, so I am making the request alone, but hope the trustees will see fit to grant it.

Yours sincerely,

O. D. Mathewson, '90

Dartmouth College  
Hanover, N. H.  
May 5, 1930

Dear Mr. Mathewson,

I have been denied by out of town engagements the privilege of writing you since the Trustees meeting in regard to your letter suggesting that students from Wheelock, Vermont be given full tuition in case of their desire to enter Dartmouth College. I read your letter to the Board of Trustees, expressing my own interest in it and endorsement of it, and the recommendation was immediately accepted and approved by the Trustees as the sentiment of the Board.

The following vote was passed:  
"Voted that until otherwise modified, grants of full tuition scholarship be made to any son of the Town of Wheelock, Vermont, either by birth or residence, who may desire to enter Dartmouth College, who may present adequate preparation and come suitably recommended."

The reservation, "until otherwise modified," is incorporated simply as a measure of protection to the Board as against a gold mine or an oil well being discovered in Wheelock, which would make it a young city, rather than having it remain the somewhat rural community it now is.

I am interested as to what would be the best way of giving publicity to this. Already, I believe, a notice of this has appeared in the

press, but I have wondered whether it would be feasible for you, as a resident of Vermont and a native of Wheelock and the proposer of this particular policy, to give publicity to the whole, or such part of your letter to me as you might consider desirable and to follow this up with a statement of the information you had received in regard to the vote of the Board.

On the other hand, if you feel it preferable, I will issue it as publicity from our office here, although I fear it would not get as much attention in Vermont, as it would if it emanated from you.

Yours very sincerely,  
Ernest M. Hopkins

## WHEELOCK SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Harland Deos, Dartmouth College 1939; University of Vermont Medical School

Winston Shorey, Dartmouth College 1940; Asst. Dean University of Miami Medical School 1960

Neil Barber, Dartmouth College 1942

Arthur Ranald Bailey, Jr., Dartmouth College 1956



THE REV. DR. NATHAN LORD

(from a portrait by Thomas Cole in  
Baker Memorial Library, Dartmouth College)



## Chapter XX

# Postal Service

*Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night  
stays these couriers from the swift completion of their  
appointed rounds.*

### LIST OF LETTERS

*Remaining in the Post-Office at Wheelock, Dec. 27, 1810.*

**WHEELOCK**, Ward Bradley, Esq.  
Doc. Jonathan Griffin, Isaac Harvey, Moses Hubbard, Dennet Gilman, Doc. John Meigs, Joseph Stickney, John Quimby, Elijah Willard.  
*Sheffield*—George Denwell, Laura Callender.  
*Billymead*—John Beckweth.  
*Lyndon*—Caleb Sanborn.  
*Newark*—John Parker.

THOMAS EDGERLY, P. M.

In 1784, by an act of the General Assembly of Vermont, Newbury was established as one of the five postoffices in the state. At this time, post riders were to get two cents a mile. Post riders carried the mail in their saddle bags and announced their approach with a blast of the long horn. In the more remote parts it was often the case that "the post rider was a man of advanced years, who, as his jaded beast jogged along the lonesome stretch of country road, whiled away his time in knitting woolen mittens and stockings." (*Pillsbury, History of New Hampshire Vol. II p. 415*)

The postmaster's commission at that time was 30 percent of the amount collected on unpaid letters and 50 percent of the sum paid on newspapers. The addressee was supposed to pay the postage, not the sender. The postmaster also had a franking privilege for his own correspondence.

Nevertheless David Dunbar resigned the postmastership at Danville after a few months in office, also from two other small government posts, saying, that altogether, they were not "as profitable as a good farrow cow."

On Sept. 1, 1799 a mail route had gone into operation from Newbury, through Ryegate and Peacham, to Danville. By 1810 the route was extended from Danville to Derby and return once in two weeks. This followed the County Road through Wheelock, thence to Sheffield and Barton. It is reported (*Collins, History of Vermont*) that mail from the west came into Danville from St. Albans.

It is evident, from advertisements appearing in the *North Star* in 1810, 1811 and 1812, that people not on the direct post route often failed to pick up their mail promptly.

Jan. 19, 1811

### LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in the Post Office  
Wheelock Dec. 27, 1810

**WHEELOCK**—Ward Bradley, Esq.

Doc. Jonathan Griffin, Isaac Harvey, Moses Hubbard, Dennet Gilman, Doc. John Meigs, Joseph Stickney, John Quimby, Elijah Willard

**SHEFFIELD**—George Denwell, Laura Collender

**BILLYMEAD**—John Beckweth

**LYNDON**—Caleb Sanborn

**NEWARK**—John Parker

THOMAS EDGERLY, P. M.

The fact that people were in no hurry to collect their mail may have been due, somewhat, to the fear that it was not worth paying for. In 1820 the letter rates were fixed thus:

Lowest rate of postage	1 letter	6 cents
above thirty miles	1 letter	10 cents
above eighty miles	1 letter	7 pence
and up to 400 miles	1 letter	25 cents

Many amusing and ingenious devices were resorted to between correspondents to avoid paying postage. It was quite customary to send letters by anyone travelling out of town, or out of the state, thus assuring that the recipients would not have to pay for the privilege of learning the contents. Postage was charged on the number of sheets of letter paper used, which led to the confusing method of "cross-hatching," or overwriting, and hard study by the reader. Another device was the use of codes, often only on the address side of the letter. After careful examination and discovery of the hidden "message," the receiver would refuse to pay the postage, claiming the letter was not intended for him.

As newspapers had a lower, and a fixed, rate, really industrious correspondents used to underline printed words in sequence to convey their messages.

In 1819 Sally Jenness charged to her account at the Ward Bradley store in Wheelock "12½ cents on letter to Mary."

By 1826 postage had been reduced to 5 cents for 300 miles, or less, and 10 cents per letter for more distant places. Until 1855 the postage was paid by the recipient. (*History of Peacham, Bogart*)

Newspapers were also carried by postriders, as required by Ebenezer Eaton in Danville:

#### A POST RIDER

IS immediately wanted to perform the route from this office, now owned by Joseph Pope, extending through Wheelock, Lyndon, Burke, Billymead and St. Johnsbury. About 250 papers are now distributed on said route and the number may, with ease, be increased to 300. It can be easily performed in two days in summer and will undoubtedly prove very lucrative to the undertaker

NORTH STAR OFFICE, Danville  
Jan. 5th 1811

#### A POST-RIDER

IS immediately wanted to perform the route from this Office, now owned by Joseph Pope, extending through Wheelock, Lyndon, Burke, Billymead and St. Johnsbury. About 250 papers are now distributed on said route, and the number may with ease be increased to 300. It can be easily performed in two days in the summer, and will undoubtedly prove very lucrative to the undertaker.

North Star Office, Jan. 5th, 1811.

In 1887 the Star Route for mail and the stage lines to and from Wheelock were listed thus:

South Wheelock to Lyndon, 6 miles, daily and back, except Sunday, leave S. Wheelock 3 P. M., arrive Lyndon 4:30 P. M. Leave Lyndon 6 P. M., arrive S. Wheelock at 7:30 P. M. One horse conveyance. Passenger fare, 25 cts. Austin F. Emerson, S. Wheelock, mail carrier.

Sheffield, Wheelock Hollow, Lyndon Center, Lyndonville, 8 miles and back, daily, except Sunday. Two horse conveyance. Passenger fare Lyndonville to Wheelock, 40 cts.

#### WHEELOCK POSTMASTERS

Tradition has it that the first postoffice was established in the home of Abner Hoyt, who built the first frame house in Wheelock at the west of the three corners, where the cross road from Chandler Pond joins the old County Road. It is supposed that he held the office of postmaster until his death in 1803.

Augustine Clark is the first Wheelock postmaster to be recorded in the U. S. Post Office Department records. His appointment was Jan. 1, 1806.

Succeeding postmasters were:

Charles Storey	appointed Jan. 1, 1811
Thomas Edgerly	appointed July 1, 1811
Edward Fifield	appointed Oct. 1, 1812
Abner Hoyt, Jr.	appointed Jan. 1, 1816
Josiah Lane	appointed July 1, 1816
Erastus Fairbanks	appointed April 1, 1817
Horace Evans	appointed Aug. 20, 1818
Theophilus Folsom	appointed May 12, 1821
Jesse Leavenworth, Jr.	appointed June 9, 1824
Elijah Bagley	appointed April 28, 1830
T. Jefferson Cree	appointed Jan. 29, 1835

Sewall Bradley	appointed Sept. 6, 1845
S. B. Spencer	appointed July 29, 1847
Sewall Bradley	appointed Nov. 11, 1847
Salma Trussell	appointed Sept. 8, 1851
H. A. Quimby	appointed Jan. 1, 1853
B. F. Taylor	appointed Sept. 4, 1856
M. D. Park	appointed Sept. 25, 1888
B. F. Taylor	appointed May 13, 1889
George A. Orcutt	appointed March 9, 1901
George E. Goss	appointed April 29, 1905
Addie M. Ripley	appointed Jan. 4, 1911
Carl E. Ball	appointed June 5, 1915
Harry J. Brown	appointed Jan. 21, 1916
Addie M. Ripley	appointed Dec. 12, 1916
George A. Roberts	appointed Jan. 27, 1920
Louis M. Krewett	appointed Dec. 1, 1924
Kate M. Clark	appointed Sept. 28, 1926
Louis M. Krewett	appointed Dec. 18, 1931
Warner M. Willey	appointed Aug. 28, 1934
Madelene E. Miles	appointed Oct. 28, 1940
Irving C. Brown	appointed Apr. 11, 1943
Office discontinued	Aug. 31, 1955



*TOWN OF WHEELOCK*

A post office was established at SOUTH WHEELOCK in 1871. The postmasters were:

Samuel H. Jones      appointed Apr. 5, 1871

Samuel A. Jones      appointed Dec. 26, 1879

Aaron B. Chandler    appointed July 22, 1881

George W. Ransom    appointed Nov. 12, 1892

George E. Green      appointed Nov. 17, 1896

This postoffice was discontinued Sept. 14,  
1905

## Chapter XXI

# Freighting From Boston

Before 1803 it was necessary to freight all goods to settlements north of Boston in New Hampshire and Vermont by ox team and horse drawn vehicles for the whole distance. After arriving at the last established settlement in the north country, the goods were unloaded at the local store and often carried to the distant farms by the purchaser on his hand sled.

When Ward Bradley arranged to have his first shipments freighted to his store in Wheelock, the goods must have travelled over the whole distance by road. Such teamsters as James Sherburn and Joseph Davis were regularly engaged in this business.

In 1803, however, the Middlesex Canal was completed, thus connecting Boston Harbor with the Merrimac River. This was the idea of Loammi Baldwin of Woburn, Mass. His talent as an engineer was responsible for carrying out the work. This is the same man who perfected the "Baldwin" apple and who was the boyhood friend of Count Rumford in Woburn. The canal ran from Somerville through Woburn and north to Chelmsford, into that part of the township which became Lowell. Here it met the river at what became known as Merrimac Landing. It is claimed that the canal was the first of traction type to be built in America, although this kind was well-known and used in England and the Continent. It was twenty-five miles long and cheapened the freight rates considerably. The rate from Boston to Danville, Vt. was 12 shilling per hundred in 1807. (*Ward Bradley letters*)

The success of the Middlesex Canal caused the Merrimac Boating Company to be formed to provide water travel as far north as Concord, N. H. By 1812 six canals had been built around the various falls in the river and boats could reach Concord from Boston. For nearly forty years this was the principal method of moving heavy freight to the north, until supplanted by the railroads. The Middlesex Company, which had a controlling interest in the canals, is said to have collected nearly \$592,000. (*WPA Writers Guides to New Hampshire and Massachusetts*)

It was this new convenience to which Ward Bradley referred, when weather beset his teamster soon after the store was moved to Wheelock Hollow.

Wheelock April 7th 1818

Sir,

Mr. Sherburn was obliged to Leave his Load at Concord the most part of it for the want of Snow he will Start for it in two weeks with a wagon if the Going will possibly permit and he wishes to have *Sum* more Loading to bring back if you will Send the following articles up to Concord lower Landing by the Boats in order to make out his Load to wit:

half *Berrill* Coniac Brandy

half *Berrill* Lisbon wine

one Keg Spanish White about  
one hundred

one Keg Spanish Brown about half  
hundred

100 feet 7 by 9 Glass)      Chealmsford  
50 feet 6 by 8 Glass)      or

Franklin

I Expect that the Boats are now or will be a Running in the Cornel Imediately and if you will Send the above for me (am market) with Directions for me to receive them at Concord you will much Oblige your friend and humble Servant & Co.

Messers A. & N. Tucker

Ward Bradley

Winter freighting was much preferred by the teamsters. Then the snow, well-packed by constant travel, covered all the rocks, low stumps and ruts. Swampy places were slicked over with ice and a coating of snow which made the sled runners glide easily. It was the custom to make as many winter trips as possible before the snow gave out, although sometimes the snow came too heavily and the teamsters had to be pulled out half a dozen times 'down below.'

Teamsters were often joined by farmers from Wheelock, Danville and Sheffield, all wishing to make the trip in company. The long line of ox teams made a merry party and there was none of the inconvenient dust stirred up by summer travel.



When horses were used on these trips, there was often the sport of racing, spiced by bets to cause a little entertainment along the way.

Every mile or two there were taverns where teamsters could put up for the night, or stop for a "sip o' rum." These taverns were also loafing places for the local men, who enjoyed gathering the latest news from the travellers to share later at home.

John Sherburn served not only as a teamster but delivered letters to Boston merchants from Ward Bradley, took the land rent money to Dartmouth College and brought back the receipts from Mills Olcott and other treasurers, and placed Bradley's orders for goods at suppliers along the route.

On the trip south the teamster carried "perl-ashes," butter, hogs, beef, and whatever else the merchant had on hand to trade in Boston. The sale of country produce mentioned in this letter amounted to \$674.46.

Boston Sept. 25, 1819

Ward Bradlee Esq.

Dr Sir,

Anex'd you have sales of your ashes—We can only say that we wish they had been sold at a higher price—We kept them in hopes of a better market but there is nothing in the present prospect which will justify holding ashes over \$120 pr ton—there is no apparent improvement in foreign markets—nor likely to be at present—We think the prospect of Beef considerably improv'd—I think it will Command as high a price as last Year—Prime Butter will fetch 1/ and will probably not decline—but ordinary Butter will be a very poor article—We should have writ-

ten you before—but was in hopes to have sooner disposed of your ashes and render'd the Sales.

Your Friends

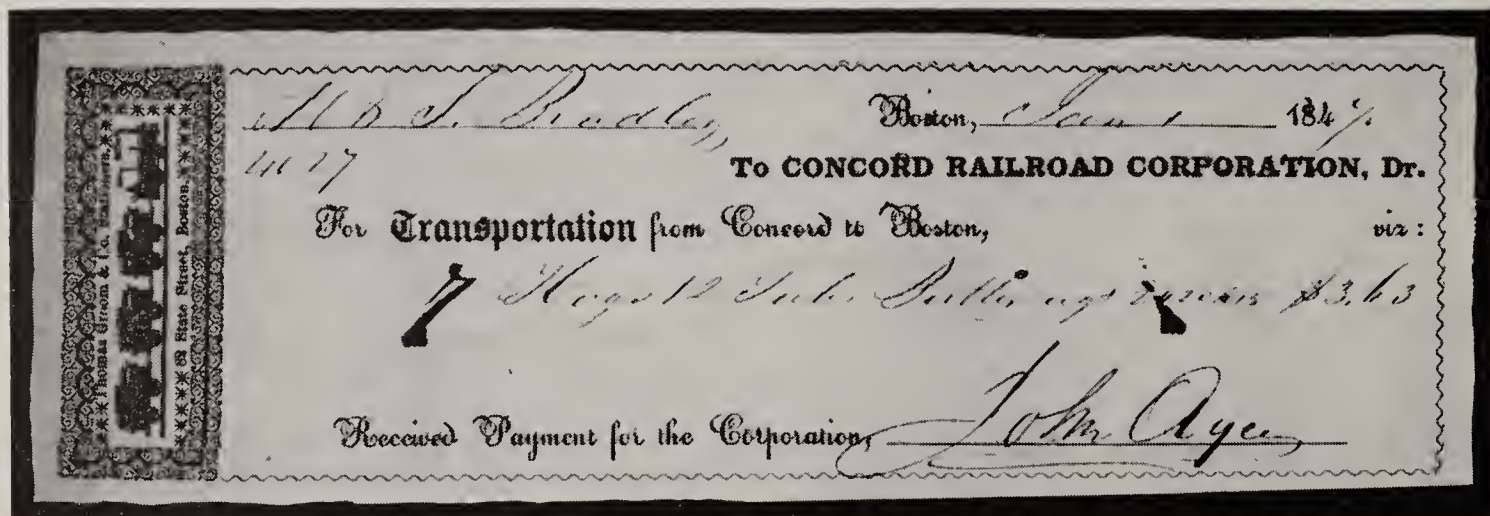
A. & N. Tucker

On one trip north, James Sherburn carried these items

	cwt.	qr.	lbs.
1 Hhd W. I. Rum	9	2	6
1 Bbl Brandy	2	2	6
2 Do N. E. Rum	5	6	0
1 crate	4	1	2
1 Box Dry Goods	3	0	0
1 Cask 10 Nails	1	2	6
1 Box Goods	1	2	12
1 Berril Hard Ware	2	0	6
2 Boxes Glass		3	13
6 Shovels		1	3
2 Kegs Tobacco	3	2	2
1 Keg Powder		1	0
1 Cask Raisins	1	0	15
1 Tub Pepper			24
1 Tub Spice			9
1 Keg Ginger		1	16
1 Keg Allum		2	4
1 Tub Indigo		0	6
½ Chest Tea		2	4
½ Chest Y H Tea		3	1
1 Do Bohea Do		2	15
3 Sides So Leather		1	25
12 pieces Iron		3	25
	43	3	9

#### OLD TEAMSTERS

King Hill		Richard Jenness	
James Sherburn to		Obil Shattuck	1821
Boston	1818	Stephen McGaffey to	
Joseph N. Davis	1820	Portland	1833
Samuel Twombly		Charlestown, Mass.	1825
Capt. John Bean		Jonathan Dow to Portland	
Samuel Ayer		Church Meigs	
Henry Sherburn to Montreal		David McGaffey	
Boylston Whitney		Nathan Weeks	1839
Samuel Bean		L. L. Weeks	1840 and 1841



## RAILROADS

In 1832 a train of cars was actually pulled by steam from Boston to Lowell over the first railroad in New England. Contemporary Cassandras wailed that "the horses would all have to be killed as being no longer of any use, and the farmers would be ruined having no market for hay and oats." The mourners were some hundred years ahead of the times in their fears, but the more immediate loss was the diminished usefulness of the Middlesex Canal. A word with new meaning was, however, added to American speech . . . Depot.

Ward Bradley received this letter three years before "the cars" reached St. Johnsbury:

Boston July 27, 1847

Gentlemen

We have this morning sent the above goods to Depot as per your order of the 24th instant. We were obliged to send you ten gall. of Hol. Gin as we had no smaller size kegs on hand and we thought we would fill it. Our Mr. E. T. Kidder says that if you cannot dispose of it he will come up there and help you drink it.

Truly Your Obdt. Servt.

Kidder & Co.

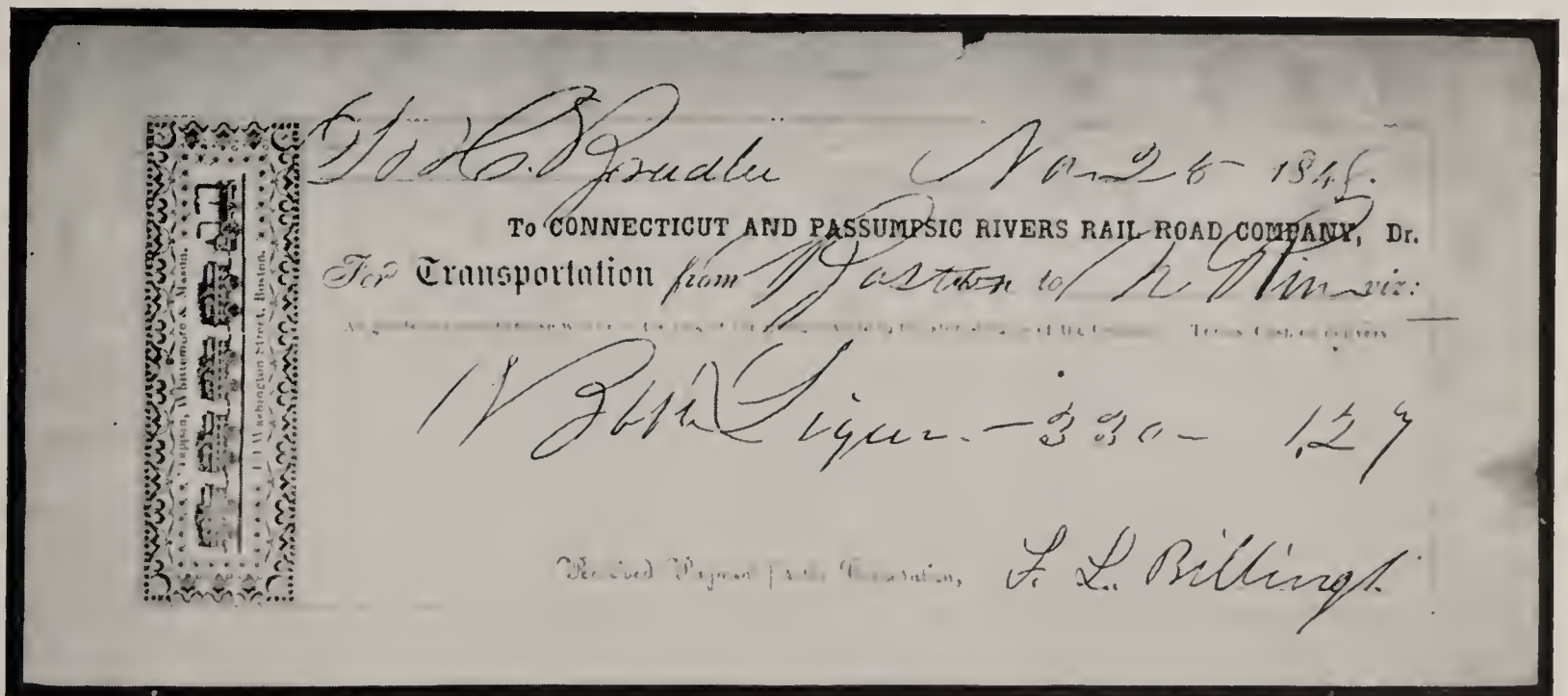
By Moody

There were still a few years left for the teamsters, although as the iron rails and iron horse moved ever northward their time was running out. The Connecticut and Passumpsic Railroad, organized at Wells River Jan. 15, 1846, undertook to build the railway from White River Junction to the Canadian line. On Nov. 28, 1850 "the cars" reached St. Johnsbury, having made a straight run from Boston.

Erastus Fairbanks, president of the Connecticut and Passumpsic Railroad, wrote on Dec. 29, 1853 to T. Jefferson Cree of Wheelock:

You speak of surveying a route for a R. R. up Millers Run and via Glover to Barton. Should you find the route tolerable please ascertain how far the right of way will be given without charge.

The railroad, however, never came to Wheelock but passed north from Lyndonville through West Burke and Sutton to Barton and thence to the Canadian line. Freightling still had to bring goods into Wheelock, although only some five miles from the railhead. Inhabitants fondly spoke of Lyndonville as "Our Depot."





# State of Vermont General List of the Town of Wheelock for the year 1817

96 Poles at \$ 20	1920.00
174 Oxen at - 10	1740.00
479 Cows & 3 year olds - 6.50	3113.50
201 Cattle of 2 years old 5.00	1005.00
400 Horses at 13.50	5400.00
24 Horses of 2 years old 6.50	156.00
18 Horses of 1 year old 3.50	63.00
3 Horses of 3 years old 1.00	3.00
12 Horses of 1 year old .60	7.20
Assessments of Horses	45.00
Assessments of Owners of Horses and other Horses	1.00 .00
	9577.50

## Deduct

7 minor equipt by Horses at 2.00	14.00
47 million Poles at 10.00	470.00
2 Horses of 2 years old at 13.50	27.00
Amount of Horses	1167.50
Balance being the sum of the above	8410.00

12133.50  
7277.50

12133  
36377

Joseph Lane  
Stephen Morgan  
Ed Fairbanks } Listers

## Chapter XXII

# Taxation, Grand Lists, and Similar Matters

From its inception "the town of Wheelock occupied an exceptional position as to the subject of taxes," wrote Judge W. H. Taylor. "The charter provided that as long as Dartmouth College and Moor's Charity School apply the rents to the purposes of the College and the School, the lands and tenements in the town shall be free from 'public taxes.'

"From the organization of the town to 1817, the land and buildings were set in the grand list for town, school and highway taxes, but were omitted from the list returned to the State for the purpose of state taxation. As will be seen presently, this was the proper treatment of the matter."

### GRAND LIST FOR 1799

Number of polls	100
Acres improved land	755
Number of oxen and 4 yr. old	79
Number of cows	126
Number of 3 yrs. old	33
Number of 2 yrs. old	39
Number of 1 yr. old	28
Number of horses 4 yrs. old & more	35
Number of horses 3 yrs. old	3
Number of horses 2 yrs. old	5
Number of horses 1 yr. old	3

(There was only one watch in town, according to the list, and it was owned by Abraham Morrill. There is no mention of a carriage to be taxed.)

### GRAND LIST FOR 1805

137 Polls	at 20 Dollars	is	\$2740
87 oxen	at 10 Dollars	is	870
301 Cows & 3 yrs. old	at \$6.50 cents	is	1956.50
109 two year olds	at 5	is	535
110 Horses	at \$13.50	is	148
10 two yr. old horses	at 6 D & 50 cents	is	65.00
13 one yr. old horses	at 3.50	is	45.50
one 3 yr. old Stallion	at 50 Dollars	is	50
4 Watches	at 5 Dollars		20
1 Clock	at 10 Dollars		10
1353 Acres of Land	at \$1.75 pr. acre		2367.75
Other Property such as Houses, Mills & Land			208.00
			<hr/>
			\$10,352.75

In 1806 there were 142 taxpayers in the Town of Wheelock. The Town Tax was \$199.92;

School Tax \$199.92, and State Tax, \$69.10.

John Brown, Esq. appears to have paid the highest tax in town: town tax of \$6.99, school tax of \$6.99 and a state tax of \$2.40.

The political scene in September of that year shows Isaac Tichenor, candidate for Governor, received 49 votes from Wheelock; Israel Smith, 40 votes; James Fish, 1 vote and Benjamin Swan, 1 vote. A total of 91 votes were cast.

In 1809 there were 171 taxpayers. The Town Tax was \$302.37; School Tax, \$74.11 and State Tax, \$80.34.

The largest taxpayers were J. Weeks, paying \$7 town tax; \$1.68, school tax and \$1.97, state tax; Edward Fifield, paying. \$6.97—\$1.67—\$2.27; Ward Bradley, \$6.64—\$1.59—\$1.94; and Thomas Mathewson, \$6.12—\$1.47 and \$1.86 respectively.

### GRAND LIST 1813

#### State of Vermont

#### General List of the Town of Wheelock for the Year 1813

128 Polls at \$20	\$2560
Acres of Improved Lands at \$1.75 per	
Houses afsefsed in the whole \$2 per 165	
159 Oxen at \$10	is 1590
509 Cows and three year olds at \$6.50	3308
179 Cattle of 2 year old at 5.	is 894
160 Horses & Mules of 3 year old & upward at 13.50	1485
17 Horses of 2 year old at \$6.50	110.50
11 Horses of 1 year old at 3.50	38.50
Stallions of 4 year old & upward at \$150	150.
Hous Clocks at 10	30.
Gold Watches at 10	
Common Watches at 5	30.
Money on hand & Debts due at 6 per.	20.
owners of mills afsefsed in the whole	100.
<hr/>	
	10331
100 Militia Polls other than those that are	
2 Equiped exempt horses of Cavalry	2000.
Exempt Amount Deducted	27.
<hr/>	

Ballance being true List for State Taxes \$8864

John Bean, Jr. )

Abner Morrill ) LISTERS

Samuel Fellows, Jr.)



These figures present an interesting study in the increasing prosperity of the Wheelock settlers. No "Gold" watches as yet, but one more "Common" watch is added and two more "house clocks." We cannot judge from this list prepared for state tax purposes how much more improved land there was over previous lists, but the figures on livestock are impressive.

From 1820-1857 the land and buildings were left out for all purposes of taxation, thus casting the whole burden of town business upon the polls and personal property.

#### WATCHES AND CARRIAGES

As will be seen by the Grand List for 1832, personal property was becoming more valuable and more widely distributed. The need to find personal possessions to tax may have brought out the "common watches" from many dark pockets but, no doubt, the owners of the "gold" variety were only too pleased to flash their wealth at all times.

The large number of "carriages" must have pleased the listers; also they showed the better roads now being made in the township. Taxing of pleasure vehicles had begun Nov. 11, 1803 and they were listed at fifty percent of their value.

#### GRAND LIST 1832

Number of polls	161	listed at \$10
Number of Taxpayers	189	
Number of Oxen	209	listed at \$2
Number Cows & others 3 yrs. old		listed at 1.25
Number Cows, 2 yrs. & younger	241	listed at .75
Number Horses (valued under \$25)	24	listed at 1.00
Number Horses (valued \$25-\$75)	124	listed at 3.00
Number Horses (valued over \$75)	4	listed at 6.00
Number Horses 2 yrs. old	31	listed at 2.00
Number Horses 1 yr. old	45	listed at 1.25
Number Sheep	2181	listed at .10
Money \$1000		Tax 6%
Total taxable property for town purposes		\$4184.85

#### COMMON WATCHES Tax \$1.00

Samuel Allen	Jonathan Folsom
Hiel Bradley	Reuben Magoon
Elijah Bagley	Amos Powers
Aram Cutter	Jonathan Taylor
William Miles	Joshua Hill
Samuel Noyes	Ziba Hoyt
Obil Shattuck	Daniel Jackson
Stephen Chesley	Philip Mathewson
Pike Davis	Nathaniel Morgan
Nathaniel Elkins	Henry Sherburn

#### GOLD WATCHES

Sewall Bradley	David Jackson
Jonathan Dow	

#### CARRIAGES

Charles Rogers	Value \$40
Orrin Nelson	40
Aaron Melvin	60
Abner Morrill	60
Dr. Frederick Leavenworth	50
William Curtis	65
John Chase	125
Ward Bradley	100

#### WHEELOCK IN 1840

Horses & mules	264	Value of Orchard	
Neat Cattle	1472	Produce	557
Sheep	4785	Value of Lumber	
Swine	1007	produced	307
Poultry, all kinds		Value of family made	
estimated value	\$475	goods	5095
Value of Dairy			
Produce	\$8635		

Number bushels Wheat	1967		
Number bushels Barley	903		
Number bushels Oats	11070		
Number bushels Rye	26		
Number bushels Buckwheat	1100		
Number bushels Indian corn	1100		
Wool	8287 lbs.	Hay	3,334 tons
Hops	58 lbs.	Sugar made	32,160 lbs.
Wax	58 lbs.	Wood sold	154 cords
Potatoes	57,520 bu.		

Store (retail dry-goods) 1, Capital invested \$3000

Fulling Mill (wool) 1 persons employed 1

Tannery 1 Sides of leather tanned 188

Sides of upper leather tanned 268  
persons employed 1

Capital invested \$2000

Saddleries 2 value of Manufactured articles \$200

Carriage and Wagon Shop persons employed, 3

Capital invested \$600

value of manufactures \$550

Grist Mill 1 ) persons employed 4

) capital invested \$2900

Saw Mills 3 ) value of manufactures \$3555

Cabinet and Furniture Shop persons employed 4

value of furniture made \$800

capital invested \$1200

All other manufacturies \$1511

Total capital invested in all industries \$6700

#### WHEELOCK IN 1842

12 School Districts; 3 sawmills; 1 gristmill; 1 tannery; 1 fulling mill; 1 store; Population, 881.

Horses, 264; Cattle, 1472; Sheep, 4787; Swine, 1007; Wheat, 1976 bushels; Barley, 903 bu.; Oats, 11,070 bu.; Rye, 26 bu.; Buckwheat, 1100 bu.; Indian corn, 1100 bu.; Potatoes, 57,520 bu.; Hay, 3334 tons; Sugar, 32,160 lbs.; Wool, 8,287 lbs.

(Zadock Thompson, History of Vermont)

## WHEELOCK IN 1848

Grand List for State Tax: Polls, 280; Personal Property, \$15,817; Assessment on attorney, physician, etc., 1; one percent on personal property, \$439.17, less Militia Equipment, \$96, giving a balance for state taxes of \$343.17. (*Hayward's Vermont Gazetteer, Boston, Mass.*)

## WHEELOCK IN 1860

Grand List Polls, 320; Population 858; Personal Property, \$15,321; In Wheelock Hollow, 30 dwellings; 1 meeting house; 1 tavern; 1 gristmill; 2 sawmills; 1 machine shop; 1 tannery; 1 planing mill; 1 store and post office; 1 law office, 2 blacksmiths; 1 starch factory; 2 shoe shops.

(*Hemenway's Gazetteer*)

## SWEARING OFF

The method of exempting land and buildings from taxation imposed a hardship on some, especially those who had no personal property but were compelled to pay a heavy poll tax. The burden of the taxes on the landless was increased by a law passed in 1842, permitting a taxpayer to "swear off" on his personal property to the extent of his indebtedness. It did not take many years for this new law to become very popular. In 1850 only 25 resident taxpayers passed on their personal property, while 166 "swore off" for just debts due a part, or all of their property.

On March 1, 1851 a remedy for this problem was sought from the Trustees of Dartmouth College. The inhabitants of Wheelock petitioned thus:

... in said Charter it was stipulated that the lands and tenements on said territory, granted as aforesaid, should be forever exempt from all public taxes whatever, in consequence and by reason of which our taxes have to be raised wholly upon the Polls and personal Estate of our citizens, which makes it *verry* onerous for the poor man. We believe that if the Charter aforesaid could be by common consent amended so as to *sett* the lands aforesaid in the list, or at least the improvements and buildings on same, it would materially benefit the condition and enhance the wealth of the citizens of the town and work no injury to the College.

We therefore pray your honours to take the subject under consideration, and grant such relief as your honours may deem Expedient & practible in the premises.

E. M. Magoon	Overseer of the Poor
T. J. Cree	Town Agent
Sewall Bradley	Town Treasurer
Azro B. Mathewson	Lister
John W. Brown	Town Clerk
Charles Roger, Jr. )	
Calvin Chase )	Selectmen

(*Dartmouth College Trustees Records*)

In response, the trustees at their annual meeting in 1851 considered the petition, which was presented by T. J. Cree in person, and

VOTED That the Prudential Committee apply to the Legislature of Vermont for an act empowering the Trustees to sell, in fee simple, all lands belonging to the College in the State of Vermont, according to the terms of a resolution of this Board passed at the annual meeting in 1844. (*An enabling act by the Vermont Legislature in 1851 allowed the Trustees to sell land outright, in fee simple, to tenants wishing to buy.*)

VOTED That the petition of the inhabitants of Wheelock, presented by Judge Cree and also the remonstrance against the same by Aaron Melvin, sen. and Aaron Melvin, jun. be committed to Hon. Joel Parker and His Ex. Gov. Dinsmoor.

## TWO BUFFALO ROBES AND A SADDLE

This, in itself, promised no solution to the burdened and perplexed taxpayers. The inequitable distribution of taxes finally became so unbearable to them that in 1857 relief was sought from the Vermont Legislature. On Nov. 10, 1857 this body passed an act providing that the town could, by vote at each annual meeting, direct the listers to include the real estate in the grand list for the purpose of local taxation, the same to be appraised at its true value, subject to the rent reserved in the leases. (*State Papers Vol. VII, pp. 451-456*)

The town so voted, and in 1858, as a result of the above Act, the listers, T. J. Cree, Charles Rogers, Jr., and George Giffin, Jr., set all the real estate in town in the grand list for local taxation purposes.

Although this brought tax relief to many, it was a cause for litigation on the part of Nathaniel L. Morgan, as described in some detail by O. D. Mathewson. "The listers set a hundred acres of land of Nathaniel L. Morgan at \$800, on which a tax of \$3.28 was assessed. He refused to pay it and the collector of taxes, Rufus M. Hubbard, 'distrained



two buffalo robes and one saddle,' which he sold to pay the tax and costs. The land had been leased originally to Daniel Cross and had passed by deeds to Nathaniel Morgan. He brought suit in the August term of County Court against the listers for appraising and setting this land in the town grand list for 1858."

#### MORGAN VS. CREE

An agreed statement of facts was submitted to Judge Luke Poland, who rendered a decision in favor of the defendant. The plaintiff took exceptions and the case was argued before the Vermont Supreme Court, which held that, notwithstanding the charter exemptions, the real estate was subject to local taxes, assessed for the use and immediate benefit of the town. Hon. Ashart Peck (*later Governor of Vermont in 1874*) delivered the opinion of the court. The plaintiff was represented by E. A. Cahoon and T. P. Redfield; the defendant by T. J. Cree, Peck and Colby. (*Morgan vs. Cree Vol. 46 Vermont 773*)

#### VOLUNTARY PATRIOTS AND TAXPAYERS ALL

T. Jefferson Cree became the Dartmouth College agent in Wheelock in 1836. His part in bringing about the above decision, which has governed local taxation ever since, is hinted at in the letter he received from Daniel R. Blaisdell, Dartmouth College Treasurer.

March 28, 1862

Sir:

Your favor of the 24th inst. has been received and I heartily congratulate your townsmen on the settlement by your supreme court of the question of taxation. I have no doubt of the correctness of the decision as a question of law and as to the interest of the town, referring especially to the policy of an equal distribution of the burden of supporting the institutions of society, there must certainly be little doubt.

Since I first began to consider the subject, it has appeared to me that the expression "public taxes" must be held to be those over which the Legislature had an especial control, as dis-

tinguished from such as the town, in its municipal capacity, would ordinarily raise for its own purposes; and I have been satisfied that an exemption, which was intended to aid a public charity, had, in fact, become an injury to it, as well as to the whole community.

I am gratified by your success, because, while I do not think it will injure the college interests but on the contrary advance them, I think that it will effect a substantial and permanent improvement in the condition of the town, placing it more nearly upon an equality with other towns . . . for I must confess to a very decided opinion, that it is the best policy for communities, as well as individuals, to share their burdens and their responsibilities, as well as to enjoy their honors and advantages in common.

In this opinion, however, I may not find all my friends in Wheelock agreeing with me. The idea of being exempt from burdens that others may bear may be agreeable, and yet a true man is not quite satisfied to enjoy a benefit for which another has been obliged to pay. I would rather pay for my own dinner than to know that my neighbor has been obliged to pay for it for me.

But, as you suggest, I have no doubt the citizens of Wheelock will be disposed to bear their share in their burdens in one way, if not another, and if they find themselves exempt from public taxes by law, in the enactment of which they had no voice and which they cannot change, I have no doubt that, while they will accept their good fortune, they will show, at the same time, that they deserve it by their *voluntary patriotism*

. . . . .

By the course you have taken you have entitled yourself to the thanks of every friend in town; while discharging your duties as a lawyer, you have conferred a lasting benefit on your fellow citizens and demonstrated to them the intimate relation between a good lawyer and a good citizen

Accept my sincere and hearty congratulations.

(*Private Collection of Letters, Cree Family, as quoted in the Mathewson Papers VHS, Montpelier, Vt.*)

## Chapter XXIII

# Schools

*The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet*  
—Aristotle

No one knows where the first school was held in Wheelock but it must have been in a dwelling, probably a log cabin near where the first settlements were made along the County road. Instructions for the settlement of the town called for the support of an English school convenient to the settlers and as near the center of the town as possible.

At the first town meeting there was no provision for "hiring schooling" but at the March 10, 1794 meeting at Col. John Bean's it was voted "to raise 20 pounds L. M. (lawful money) to hire schooling this year."

On June 15, 1795 the inhabitants VOTED to divide the loar south School Class into two and that the South Class extend north as far as to enclude Mr. John Boyntons and westward to enclude all below Mr. Moses Wells. The 2nd Class to begin at Mr. Thomas Noyses and extend north as far as to include all below Mr. Dudley Sweaseys Alias Joseph Sweaseys.

(John Boynton bought one quarter of the sawmill at South Wheelock fourcorners on the County road from Archealus Woodman June 18, 1799. Moses Wells owned Lot No. 79 where J. S. Porter later lived, Thomas Noyes had Lot No. 71, or the James Wood place. The Sweaseys' lot referred to would be Lot No. 83.)

VOTED that all the Inhabitants of the east north-and-south roads so called and all east of them be in one Class by themselves.

(The road referred to is now known as the Danville road and the "Class" would be the Barnard Hoyt District, later called Peak District.)

VOTED that the west north-and-south Roads so called be divided by themselves, viz: to begin at Mr. Sweaseys and extend north so far as to include all on that road to Jeremiah Grays.

(This road would be the County road. Jeremiah Gray held Lot. No. 123, afterwards where Freeman Flanders lived.)

VOTED that all above Mr. Jeremiah Grays including himself be set of in a Class by themselves.

VOTED that all in the northeast part of town stand as they are now classed.

(This refers to those in Wheelock Hollow, or Weeks Mills)

This would indicate that in 1795 there were at least six classes, probably seven. The two south classes were evidently united into one "district" in 1798, according to the town meeting records of March 13 of that year. At that time it was "VOTED to raise 70 Dollars for the purpose of hiring schooling the year ensuing, two thirds of which is to be paid in labour at the common price of labour at the time said labour is done, and one third in provisions or cash." Abraham Morrill, John Bean and John Boynton, as selectmen, were empowered to "lay out the money for the hiring of Town Schooling."

The General Assembly of Vermont passed an act on Oct. 31, 1797 requiring each organized town in the state to "keep and support a school, or schools, for the instruction of youth in English, reading, writing and arithmetick." Authority was given to divide the towns into as many school districts "as shall be judged most convenient." These districts could be altered from time to time as the occasion required.

The inhabitants of the town appointed a "judicious person, or persons in each district, who in conjunction with the selectmen" had power "to appoint and remove schoolmasters" and to manage the school money.

In 1802 Wheelock voters agreed "to raise Two hundred Dollars to hire schooling the year ensuing to be paid in Good Merchantable Grain, and corn, butter, cheas, beef and pork."

On March 8, 1803 the town voted that "each school district shall chose their own Collector and collect their own school money and lay it out to hire their own schooling." The town, however, continued to raise money for school purposes. In 1806 this amounted to \$199.92.

On the application of three or more of the inhabitants of an unorganized district, the selectmen called a meeting of the inhabitants of the proposed



school district. One of the selectmen took charge of the meeting until a moderator and clerk were chosen. The other officers were a collector of rates and a committee to superintend the "prudential affairs" of the district.

The earliest extant record of a Wheelock district school meeting is the one of 1806, held by the inhabitants of South Wheelock for the purpose of building a schoolhouse. From 1806-1808 this district was called No. 2; from 1808-1830, Union; from 1830-1858, No. 1; and from 1858-1892, District No. 6. It may have been in anticipation of this school building that Ward Bradley bought 12 spelling books from Aaron Porter of Danville on Jan. 6, 1806 and another dozen on January 24. They cost 12¢ or \$2 a dozen.

#### THE WARNING

State of Vermont)  
Caledonia ss )

The inhabitants of the second school District in Wheelock are *hearby* Notified and warned to meet at the Dwelling house of Eph. Chamberlin in sd. District on monday the seventeenth Day of this instant March at 4 o'clock afternoon for the following purpose, to wit:

- 1 stly to Chuse a Moderator to govern sd. meeting
- 2 ndly to Chuse a Diftrict Clark
- 3 rdly to Se if said Diftrict will agree to build a schoolhouse for the benefit of the same and if agreed, then
- 4 thly to See what Method the Diftrict will take to build the house
- 5 thly to Chuse a Diftrict Collector
- 6 thly to Chuse a Diftrict Committee and to act on any Other that respects said Diftrict when met

WHEELOCK March 6th 1806

Abraham Morrill ) Select  
Abner Morrill ) men

#### THE MEETING

March 17th 1806 at a Legall meeting of the 2nd School Diftrict in Wheelock Chose firstly Barnard Hoyt moderator to Govern sd. meeting.

- 2 ly Chose Jofeph Lane Diftrict Clark
- 3 ly Voted to build a school house in said Diftrict
- 4 ly Voted to build the frame, finish the out-fide, build the Chimney and lay the floor the present year

- 5 ly Voted to build the house 20 by 26 feet
- 6 ly Chose E. Chamberlin collector for sd. Diftrict
- 7 ly Chose M. Darling, E. Sargent and Jofeph Lane Committee for sd. Diftrict.
- 8 ly Voted that the house be built on the rise of land near the North line of Mofes Melvin's land on his land or on the highway as near the northline of sd. lot as will be thought not to endanger the Barn of E. Chamberlin (*Moses Melvin bought Lot No. 69 from Ichabod Brackett on Nov. 19, 1799*)
- 9 ly Voted that the roof of the hous be made of rafters
- 10 ly Voted that the Committee purchase a Book for the Ufe of sd. District. Committee agreed with E. Chamberlin for 100 Spruce bords

The inhabitants of South Wheelock area were off to a good start with the favorable passage of the vote to build a school. However, disaster struck sometime between spring and the next recorded warning, Nov. 20, 1806. Fire destroyed the first building before it was completed. On Nov. 28, 1806 the inhabitants of the district met and agreed to sustain the loss of the school and "build a school-house frame immediately and finish same in the summer season of one thousand eight hundred and seven, except plastering."

The meeting was at Ephraim Chamberlin's. Capt. Perkins was chosen moderator; Dr. John Meigs, Ephraim Chamberlin and Jonathan Dow, auditors.

VOTED that the tax that was afsefised to build the Schoolhouse that was burnt shall be collected the claims against the District Relative to said house that was burnt be adjufted and the overpluss money, together with the Glafs, Nails, Brick, etc. to be kept in Store and put into another house as far as they go.

A new site was chosen: "House to be built in Moses Melvin's field on the piece of ground adjoining on the west side of the place where the other house was burnt, to set facing the rode, the front to run Straight with the *fance* on the west side of the Road, said Melvin agreeing thereto . . ." (*On the County road just south of the S. H. Jones place—Walling's 1858 map*)

They then put the building of this house up to vendue and accepted Capt. Robert Perkins' surety for the building of same. Joseph Lane, Elijah Sargent and John Meigs were chosen a committee to inspect the building.

During the emergency it was up to the school committee to "provide a place for keeping school the prefent winter as near the center of the District as they can procure a room, and lay out the school money."

At a meeting March 16, 1807 the voters decided to "hire schooling two months the prefent Summer" and "struck off the School Dame bord to Capt. Perkins at 4/."

It was at this time that the name of the school district was changed by vote: "that No. 2 District of School be known and *hereafter* Distinguished by the name of Union District in Wheelock."

On May 28, 1808 the voters agreed to accept the schoolhouse, as built by Obediah French for \$156 and guaranteed by Capt. Perkins, and to "Pay one half in money first October next, the other half in Neat stock first day of October Next, or Grain 10th Day of Jany. next."

"This was not complied with by the builders," which necessitated another vote: "to pay for it in Beef Cattle," which pleased the builders and they "complied."

The next September those in the district voted to finish off the inside of the schoolhouse according to Capt. Perkins' "draught" and Joseph Lane bid off the job at public vendue for \$49.90.

(Capt. Perkins of Canterbury, N. H. died in Wheelock June 20, 1827, aged 65 years.)

On March 22, 1809 the vote was passed to have a summer school "by a woman" for three months beginning June 15.

The warning of 1810 contained an article "to see what method the District will take to prevent the Breaking of Glafs in the schoolhouse" and on November 24, 1810 the voters answered "that if any Scholar shall Break any Glafs in the schoolhouse, the parents or Guardians of sd. Scholar shall make it good in two weeks or pay 50 cents for Each square of Glafs."

In the winter of 1811 it was voted to have three months of school that winter and a subscription list was made up of those willing to board the schoolmaster. The following summer four months of summer school was voted and "bord of the schoolmistress was bid off." It is often noted that the charge was greater for the master than the mistress. Parents may have found it cheaper in the long run to have four months of "lady school" than three months of "man school." By 1813 the winter

teacher was boarded for \$1 a week by various residents of the district, while the summer teacher, a lady, had been boarded for only 60 cents. In 1816 Mrs. David Carter, who had taught 72 days of summer school the previous year, was given the first call to teach the winter school.

The only other constant cares of the school district were "wood" and the repairs on the schoolhouse chimney. After one fire experience, precaution was necessary.

In 1820 Henry Jones "agreed to git five cords of wood for \$3.75 and Barnard Hoyt five more for \$3.75," reads an entry in the district clerk's book. (*Mathewson Papers, VHS*)

#### SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE TOWNSHIP

In 1817 the districts were named thus, with the sum of money appropriated to each:

Center District	\$ 70.48
Union District	70.42
South District	44.00
Fourth District	44.49
Northeast District	25.23
West District	21.79
East District	14.04
Northwest District	3.64

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\$304.15

It is easy to see from the records that the district system was not satisfactory to all. Again and again articles appear in the warnings for March Meetings to see if the town will vote to set first one resident and then another into this, or that, district. On June 7, 1824 it was

VOTED that the Selectmen shall bound and number the several School and Highway Districts and have them recorded in the town book. (*The selectmen at that time were Moses Davis, Jonathan Taylor and Horace Evans.*)

The selectmen's report, which is not dated, must have been later than the first Tuesday in September 1824, when the McGovern School District was organized and called No. 8. The report read:

The Several School Districts in Wheelock are numbered by the Selectmen of said town as follows, viz: The District in which Jesse Leavenworth lives to be known and called No. One (*predecessor of the Red Schoolhouse*); the District in which Stephen Morgan lives, No. 2 (*the Morgan School*); the District in which Samuel Fellows, Esq. lives, No. three (*West Wheelock*); the District in which Ward Bradley lives, No. four (*Village school*); the Dis-



trict in which Jonathan Nelson lives, No. five (*later united with No. 4*); the District in which Peter Cochran lives, No. six (*Peak school*); the District in which Obil Shattuck lives, No. seven (*Emerson school, the first in Wheelock*); the District in which Henry Sherburn lives, No. eight (*McGovern or Mountain school*)

Moses Davis  
Jonathan Taylor

The names in parentheses were added by O. D. M. to make the locations better understood by later-day readers. He adds that District No. 9 was organized April 26, 1827; No. 10 on the same date; No. 12, March 11, 1828, but that there was no record of any date for setting off District No. 11.

In 1829, however, it is the records of District No. 10 that are missing. Other schools, their location and clerks are listed thus:

- No. 1 had 31 enrolled, with Jesse Leavenworth, clerk. This was the old school by the Samuel Jones place in South Wheelock.
- No. 2 had 38 children enrolled, with Jonathan Taylor, clerk. This was later known as the Morgan District.
- No. 3 had 37 children, with Dudley Clark, clerk.
- No. 4 had 44 children, with John Chase, clerk. This was the Village school.
- No. 5 had 23 children, with Jonathan Richardson, clerk. This was in the part of town between Sutton and Sheffield and was later called the Follett school. It was given up in 1834.
- No. 6 had 33 children, with Barnard Hoyt, clerk. This was the East, or Peak district.
- No. 7 had 27 children, with Elisha Davis, clerk. This was probably the school near the Austin Emerson place.
- No. 8 had 31 children, with E. M. Magoon, clerk. This was later called the McGovern, or Mountain, school.
- No. 9 had 24 children, with Joshua Hill, clerk.
- No. 10 (records missing)
- No. 11 had 11 children, with N. W. Clark, clerk.
- No. 12 had 16 children, Anson Shattuck, clerk. This was probably the South School of 1817, later called the Chandler district.

This made a total count in 1829 of 315 children over four years of age and under 18 years.

#### BETTER SCHOOLS FOR SOUTH WHEELOCK

April 7, 1821 the Union District voted "to lath and plaster the schoolhouse all overhead and take away the chimney and make necessary repairs for setting a stove in the House and finish sealing where it is not sealed and make suitable seats in the same." Also "to have lath board laid on top of the beams and plastered on the top and slicked beneath." Levi Perkins bid off the work for \$16.50 and bought the old chimney for \$8.99. This must mark the end of heating the school by means of a fireplace.

The next improvement was the "porch," which on March 18, 1822 Henry Jones agreed to finish for \$6.50, with stone underpinning and shingling done in a good, workmanlike manner before the next June.

In 1824 another of the rather constant items of repairs appeared: "VOTED John Brown to Repair the Seats in sd. Schoolhouse and put in one square Glass in a workmanlike manner as agreed to by John Brown for 50 cents."

#### KEEP OUT THE COWS

Back in 1806, when it was first decided to build a schoolhouse in District No. 2, the intent of the inhabitants had been to so situate the building that it would not interfere with Ephraim Chamberlin's barn. But by 1852 Samuel Willey's barnyard proved too close to the school. Samuel was making the school a "draught house." A group of indignant parents petitioned the district, in the person of its clerk, William B. Jones, "to see if the District will support their dignity as a body corporate and remove those nuisances from sd. house in that manner which shall be respectful to the house and honorable to the district."

The resulting action was the construction of a fence six feet from the south end of the schoolhouse, so that the cattle in the barnyard couldn't break the glass in the windows. Mr. Willey was agreeable to giving the extra six feet of land, provided the district paid the recording fee.

From 1852 to 1860 the question of building a new schoolhouse came up at every district meeting and was either passed over or voted in the negative, until 1860, when it was finally voted to build and "locate the schoolhouse near the meeting house." The site was on the west side of the County road opposite the first Free Will Baptist Church. The building, presently known as the Red Schoolhouse,

thus came into being. Charles Rogers, Jr., William B. Jones and Horace C. Goss supervised the construction, which cost \$414.11. The old building down by the four corners was sold to J. W. Brown for \$15. The new school served the district until 1892, when it was given up, according to the records of the district.

## CAUGHT WHISPERING

When Stephen Mathewson Jones taught a fall term of eleven weeks beginning Sept. 4, 1865 in South Wheelock, he kept a list of "schollars" and against their names he marked a line each time they were detected whispering. George Pinkham, Simon Pells and William Taylor received the most "lines," in the "Check List Whispering" of the teacher's book. Next term he taught in North Danville. The pupils at No. 9 School weren't nearly such ardent whisperers, according to his "List."

"Roll of schollars under my tuition at South Wheelock"

## BOYS

Horace Magoon	William Gray
George Pinkham	Philip Goss
William Bean	Charles Gray
Nathaniel Ward	Simon Pells
Taylor Folsom	Smith Emerson
John Daniels	William Bean 2nd
John Bean	Albert Bean
Frank Garfield	John Chandler
George Bider	George Goss
George Hoyt	Warren Noys
George Jones	Almon Willey
? Jones	George Noys
Charles Noys	Eugene Clement
Charles Darling	Eddie Jeffers
William Taylor	

## GIRLS

Almira Sherburn	Carrie Rogers
Loristine Heath	Adaline Daniels
Hannah Jones	Mary Emerson
Esther Folsom	Samantha Darling

## DISTRICT CLERKS—UNION DISTRICT

1806-1809	Joseph Lane
1810-1816	Ephraim Chamberlin
1816-1818	Isaiah Townshend
1818-1822	Frederick Leavenworth
1823-1824	Abner Hoyt
1824	Edward M. Magoon
1824-1829	Jesse Leavenworth
1829-1830	Abner Hoyt
1830-1834	John W. Brown

1834-1837	William B. Jones
1837	Calvin Rogers
1837-1841	John W. Brown
1841-1842	Ellsworth H. Brown
1842-1844	Charles Rogers
1844-1845	William H. Johnston
1845-1850	William B. Jones
1850-1851	Charles Rogers
1851-1853	William B. Jones
1853-1854	Charles Rogers, Jr.
1854-1855	John W. Brown
1855-1859	Samuel H. Jones
1859-1860	J. G. Young
1860-1861	William H. Jones
1861-1862	Stephen O. Elkins
1862	B. F. Willey
1863-1866	Horace C. Goss
1867	S. O. Elkins
1867	W. W. Bean
1867-1879	Samuel H. Jones
1879-1885	J. F. Emerson
1885-1892	A. B. Chandler
1892	E. J. Jeffers

## DISTRICT OFFICERS—UNION SCHOOL

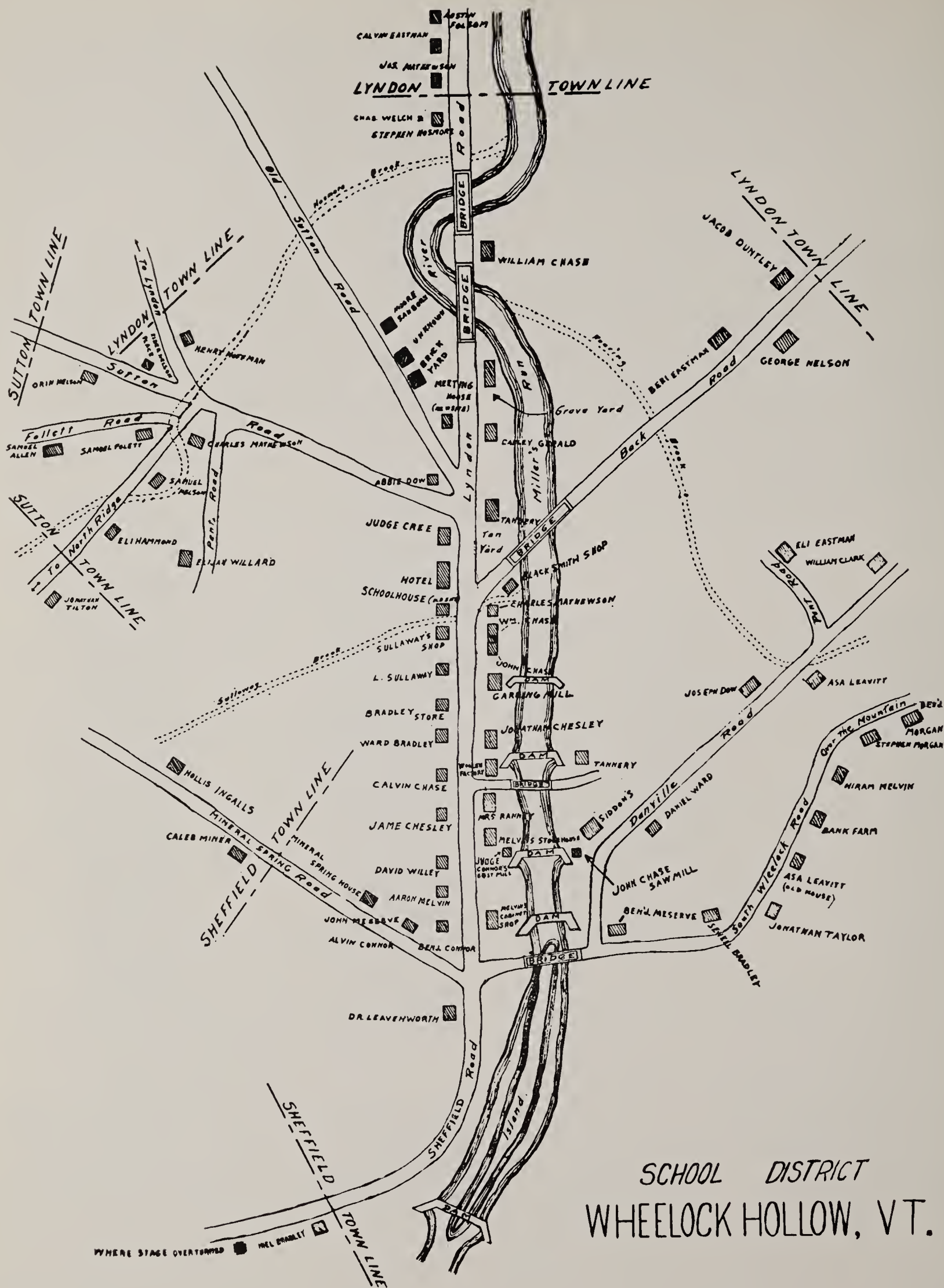
Barnard Hoyt	Solomon Horn
Ephraim Chamberlin	George R. Perkins
Moses Darling	David Darling
Elijah Sargent	Ellsworth N. Brown
Capt. Robert Perkins	William B. Jones
Dr. John Meigs	Charles Rogers
Jonathan Dow	John W. Brown
Obediah French	James Thompson
Ebenezer Chandler	Charles Rogers, Jr.
Thomas Hoyt	Samuel Willey
Nathaniel Hart	Joseph Chase
Abner Morrill	Benjamin Ward
Stephen Brown	Ephraim Clement
Capt. Moses Melvin	Horace C. Goss
Walter Hoyt	James R. Young
Nathaniel Brown	Samuel H. Jones
Edward M. Magoon	Stephen O. Elkins
Daniel Harvey	Daniel Wheeler
Isaiah Townsend	H. Skinner
Josiah Lane	Edwin A. Williams
James Sherburn	E. A. Chandler
Asa Page	W. W. Bean
Abner Hoyt	A. B. Chandler
Jacob Foss	Johnston Wark
Abajah Porter	S. A. Jones
Capt. John Sherburn	W. H. Jones
Jesse Leavenworth	J. B. Gibson
Abner Brown	David Bean
Capt. Magoon	Daniel S. Jones
William Townsend	E. J. Jeffers
John Chandler	

## EARLY TEACHERS

Mrs. David Carter	1816	Hannah Rogers (sister of Charles)
Abigail Curtis	1821	Miss Drew (sister of Ora Drew)
Susan Hill	1837	Celia Mathewson
Wm. H. Johnston	1844	Sylvia Drown (Sheffield)
Ellsworth Brown		
Stephen M. Jones		



TOWN OF WHEELOCK



The first recorded meeting now extant for the School District No. 4, or the Hollow school, was in the year 1810.

### The Warning

The inhabitants of School District No. 4 are hereby notified and warned to meet at the dwelling house of Joshua Weeks in this Town on Monday the 17th of this month at 6 o'clock to transact the following business, viz:

- 1st To choose a moderator to govern said meeting
- 2nd To choose a school committee
- 3rd To choose a District Clerk
- 4th To see what the district will do towards raising money to finish the Schoolhouse in said district
- 5th To lay a tax to defray the expense of the same
- 6th To choose a district treasurer
- 7th To choose a district collector
- 8th To transact all other business thought proper when met

WHEELOCK Sept. 3d, 1810

Joshua Weeks )  
Thomas Mathewson) Committee

The interesting vote at this meeting was:

VOTED a tax of sixty eight Dollars to defray the expense of the same.

Made choice of Nathan Hines for Treasurer and Collector

Agreed with Thomas Mathewson to build the chimney and lay the Hearth and underpin said Schoolhouse and find the materials for doing same for the sum of thirty-two Dollars

Agreed with Joseph Coffran to Finish off the said House to the expence of the committee for the sum of twenty-six Dollars and 50 Cts

Agreed to give Nathan Hines two Dollars for collecting the Tax

The next January, 1811, District No. 4 voted "that there should be  $\frac{1}{3}$  Cord of 3 feet wood to every Scholar brot within one week after the beginning of the School and it shall be the duty of the School Master to take an accurate acct. of all the wood brot to the sd. house and hand it to the District Clerk soon after the decision of the School. Thos. Mathewson and John Chase agreed to furnish the sd. house with a suitable Table and Joshua Weeks to find a good chair at their own expence."

This is the usual vote concerning wood year after year, although the amount was finally cut down to  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a cord per scholar. Now and then the vote calls for wood "split for the fire," "good hard wood," "rock maple," etc. It is evident that the wood question was a problem, for in 1816 Horace Evans was directed "to collect the wood." In 1826 it was "Voted that Theophilus Folsom Measure the wood." The records do not show whether this was due to the incompetency of the schoolmaster, the dissatisfaction of the patrons with his measurements, or his own criticism of the quality of the wood "brot."

Evidently schoolhouses underwent a severe strain in those days for, when only three years old, the building was "repaired" by Joshua Weeks, Thomas Mathewson and others "at their own expence."

In the Warning for a meeting of Aug. 29, 1814 an article read "to see if the District will agree to move the School house which stands on Mr. Conners land, it being his request." At the meeting the district so voted, reserving the "Chimney, the benches, the boards, the boards overhead that Compose the brest work, and the windows." Mr. Conner agreed to let the district occupy the building for the winter school. He chose Stephen Morgan as appraiser, while the district took Samuel Allen.

On March 29, 1815 the district voted to build a schoolhouse and left the choice of a location to the newly elected school committee, John White, Gideon Leavitt and John Chase. At that time it was voted "to Raise one hundred Dollars, one half payable in money the first of October next and one half in Merchantable grain in January next for the aforesaid purpose." Erastus Fairbanks was chosen district collector.

At an adjourned meeting Apr. 8, 1815 at John Chase's, it was "voted to pay Theophilus Folsom, Jr. five Dollars for nine square rods of land in the southeast corner of the little field east of Sulloway's brook." The committee was to take "the effects of the old schoolhouse and build the new one." As in most buildings for public use, the resulting structure



cost more than the money appropriated. This second village school cost about \$200, according to the old records.

### THE COFFINMAKER DEEDS THE LAND

Know all Men by these Presents

That I, Theophilus Folsom, Jr. of Wheelock in the county of Caledonia and State of Vermont for and in consideration of the sum of five dollars received of John Chase, John White and Gideon Leavitt, all of Wheelock, County and State aforesaid, District School Committee for the fourth School District in Wheelock, to my full satisfaction with receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have remised, released, and forever quitclaimed unto them, the said John Chase, John White and Gideon Leavitt and to their successors in the aforesaid office as School Committee forever all the right, title, interest, claim and demand which I, the said Theophilus Folsom, Jr., have in and to a certain tract or parcel of land lying in the township of Wheelock, County of Caledonia and State of Vermont, to wit: Being a part of Lot No. 58 bounded as follows: beginning at the southeast corner of a piece of land Joshua Weeks deeded to Titus Newell adjoining Amos Wakefield's land on the North side of the highway running from said Weeks' mill to Lyndon, thence running westerly on the North Line of said highway three rods, thence to extend northerly on the line of said Wakefield's land of equal width three rods, containing nine square rods of land by measure

To Have and to Hold the aforesaid premises with all the privileges to the same belonging, to them, the said John Chase, John White and Gideon Leavitt and their successors in the aforesaid office, for the use of the aforesaid School District forever, so that neither I, the said Theophilus Folsom, Jr., nor my heirs, nor any person or persons in my name or behalf then or will hereafter have or claim any right or title to the premises aforesaid or any part thereof but they and every one of them I have by these presents forever barred and excluded there from, hereby engaging to warrant and defend the same against any person or persons claiming by, from, or under me, in testimony whereof I have set my hand and seal this second day of May A. D. 1815.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of  
Erastus Fairbnaks  
Ward Bradley

Theo. Folsom, Jr.

State of Vermont, Wheelock May 6th, 1815  
Caledonia County

Personally appeared Theophilus Folsom, Jr. signer and sealer of the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed before me

Ward Bradley, Justice Peace

Wheelock, Sept. 20th 1815

Received and recorded

John Bean, Town Clerk

(*Wheelock Land Records Vol. 3, p. 522*)

It would seem that the size of the deed might have been greater than the size of the schoolhouse lot. This land was later sold on July 18, 1853 to A. B. Mathewson for \$27. One can only wonder if legal fees had increased proportionately.

### A TYPICAL SCHOOL OF THE TIMES

The old school house was of the prevailing type of its day. It stood with the side facing the road and had three or four windows on each side and two at the back. Inside, an entry ran across the front and served as a place for the pupils to hang their wraps. The boys wore caps, tippets and homespun frocks, while the girls had "clouds" and double shawls. At the rear of the schoolroom was the teacher's desk on a slightly raised platform. In the middle of the room stood a stove, successor to the early fireplace. On each side of the room were three rows of benches, divided into three groups each by two aisles leading towards the windows. The groups at the end next to the teacher's desk had four benches each, making twenty benches in all. The benches were on an incline so that those seated at the back could see over the scholars in front of them. The windows had no shades, nor were there maps, globe, reference books or the appointments of a modern school. Only two small blackboards of wood suggested "modern improvements."

School kept from 9 to 12 and from 1 to 4 o'clock six days a week. Holidays were almost unknown and the terms were so arranged to avoid them as much as possible. There was generally a summer and a winter term in each district and the number of weeks in each lengthened through the years, as the settlers grew to admire learning. The summer term was generally kept by a woman teacher, or "mistress," while the winter term required a man teacher (sometimes written 'mail teacher' in the district records) to keep the big boys "straight." Now and then a "select school" was taught by some popular teacher for the more ambitious pupils, who paid a fee for such a privilege.



Teachers were selected by the prudential committee of each district which conducted such examinations as its members deemed best. It was chiefly the teacher's ability to keep order that mattered. A beginner was judged by his courage and physical prowess. Yet it would be a mistake to think that the early teachers lacked mental qualities essential to good teaching. While not trained in their work, many became, through experience, very efficient.

### THE CURRICULUM

The subjects taught were few in number and only a little advanced work was done in any of them. The New England Primer had opened the door to reading and it was augmented by use of the Psalter and Bible as texts. Then came readers, such as the English Reader and the Rhetorical Reader. Although planned for school use, these old readers needed a certain maturity of mind to digest them. Through frequent reading of the same material from year to year, the children easily committed "pieces" to memory and thus stored up for life quotations and sentiments for all times and occasions.

The old spelling books were filled with sentences showing the uses of words and attempting at the same time to teach facts and morals. "Chill-blains are sores caused by cold." "Elopement is a running away, or private departure." "A valetudinarian is a sickly person." "Good manners are always becoming." "God will destroy the wicked."

It was in the arithmetic study that the old school left traditions of its prowess. Most of the pupils, however, never completed "vulgar fractions," while to "cypher to the rule of three" indicated that one was "good in 'rithmetic." Now and then an outstanding boy with some help from the teacher, or a mathematical crank in the district, "cyphered" through Pike's Arithmetic, or Adams' or Burnham's. This brought great joy to the boy's parents and even greater fame came to him who could master the crowning test, Zerah Colburn's Mental Arithmetic.

(For more on the child prodigy, Zerah, see *Treasury of Vermont Life*, pp. 174-178)

Little attention was paid to geography of any kind. Jedediah Morse's Geography Made Easy was generally used when the subject was taught. It was a question and answer book, with crude maps and pictures. The early First Book of Geography opens with the question, "How are the earth, the sun, and

'all yon orbs' upheld?" Answer: "By the same ALL PERFECT HAND that created them in the beginning." "He hangeth on nothing"—Bible. "'Twas He, who bid brute matter's lump assume such various shapes and gave it wings to fly"—Young.

In contrast, a modern text book begins, "The story of the earth and of the people living on it is called GEOGRAPHY."

Lindley Murray provided a standard text in grammar, dry and technical as any pupil would agree. As early as 1821 Murray's Grammar was in its 9th edition. In a footnote the author states, "The author conceives that the occasional strictures, dispersed throughout this book and intended to illustrate and support a number of grammatical points, will not, to young persons of ingenuity, appear dry and useless discussion. He is persuaded that, by such persons, they will be read with attention. And he presumes that these strictures will gratify their curiosity, stimulate application, and give solidity and permanence to their grammatical knowledge." Weld, and, later, Green wrote texts which were more widely used.

No course in grammar was thought complete which did not include analysis and parsing. Thompson's Seasons gave food for thought, if not for action. Think of analyzing, in a cold classroom in mid-winter. "Come, Gentle Spring, ethereal Mildness, come." And, near the end of a hard day, how the teacher must have enjoyed "Delightful task, to rear the tender thought; to teach the young idea to shoot." How memory, or imagination, or both, kindled in the boys and girls as they conned the line, "The kiss, snatched hasty from the sidelong maid."

Among the early history books was "A History of the United States of America on a Plan Adapted to the Capacity of Youth and Designed to Aid the Memory by Systematic Arrangement and Interesting Associations," by Rev. Charles Goodrich. It had Notes and Reflections at the end of each chapter and a long list of questions at the end of the book.

Another "School History of the United States," used in this area was by Hall and Baker. Mr. S. R. Hall was the founder of the Normal School in Concord, Vt., the first school for training teachers in the United States. This book had questions at the bottom of each page, with geographical and chronological questions at the end. Some directions were giv-



en for the use of the book, special emphasis being laid upon the chart designed to accompany the text. A list of authors consulted preceded An Outline for a More Extensive Course of Study.

#### THE WANDERING SCHOOLHOUSE THAT STAYED PUT

In 1827 District No. 4 "Voted to have the schoolhouse moved over to the guid Board between the two roads towards Philip Mathewson by Samuel Ayer, Theophilus Folsom and Philip Mathewson Shoeing said house and putting the Same in as Good Repair as it now is and Shed with it." This vote was reconsidered later and the school was not moved. At two other times it was voted to move it, first, to "Col. Chase's Land Down by the river" and second, "Down between Mr. Ayer's Bark mill and John Chase's Meadow." In both cases the work was to be done without expense to the district. But nothing came of this.

In 1829 it was "Voted not to sell the Schoolhouse, Wood Shed and Land." It was voted to have a good lock and key for the house. Two years later it was "Voted to have a door to the wood shed and Lock the same." This gives credence to the saying prevalent then, "School wood is harder to get into the shed than out of it." Three years later Philip McGaffey was paid \$1.47 to put a door and lock on the wood shed.

In 1837 a committee was chosen to draft a plan for a new schoolhouse. John Chase, Charles Mathewson and Jefferson Cree were the members. Their report was not acted upon favorably, however, and at the same meeting another committee, comprised of James Roberts, Jr., Ira McQuillan and Stephen Hos-

mer, was elected to "Draft a plan for A Brick and Wooden house and to get proposals of each, how cheap they can be built in said district, and report to the District at a Meeting Warned for that purpose."

Village pride may have desired a brick building, but village thrift prevailed. In February 1838 it was voted to build a schoolhouse of wood. The building committee was James Roberts, Jr., Hiel Bradley and Jefferson Cree. The old building was sold at auction to James Roberts, Jr. for \$9, the district reserving the stove and pipe. It was this schoolhouse, built in 1838, that was popularly known in the Hollow for many years as the first, when in fact it was the third.

#### DISCIPLINE, ITS CAUSE AND EFFECT

On Jan. 2, 1847 Orin Nelson, Edwin Hosmer and Samuel Nelson and Asa Leavitt joined in a petition for a special school meeting to see if the "District was satisfied with the school now keeping and the management therein." A meeting was called and "the complaint of Orin Nelson and others in regard to the management of the school was heard, and by vote of the district agreed to Sustain the Master in his management, Orin Nelson and Asa Leavitt voting in the negative."

This action did not fail to prevent pranks and jokes by the pupils, nor corresponding punishment by the teachers. In later life the retelling of these episodes provided great entertainment for the erstwhile scholars. In fact, one elderly woman, when being asked to recall the teachers of her youth, placed after the name of one, "no good, except fun for the scholars."

#### GOOD OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS

Some of the stories that were told again and again about the Hollow were:

Stephen Hosmer, who used to live where the Welches did in after years, called at the schoolhouse one day to plead the case of his son, Riley, whom the teacher had "thrashed" the day before. Shaking his clenched fist in the master's face, he shouted, "Forty-seven stripes you put on his back. It's too shameful to tell, Mr. Master, but it's told." Whether Mr. Hosmer got the exact number from the boy, or by counting the stripes, tradition does not tell.

Martin V. B. Connor was a big, fat boy. One day in summer some of his schoolmates got some shoemaker's wax from Uncle Sulloway and placed it on Martin's bench while he was in recitation at the front of the room. Recitation over, Martin returned to his bench and some of the time he sat and studied and some of the time he just sat. After a while his next class was called and Martin failed to respond.

"Martin, this is your class," said the teacher in a tone that assumed obedience.

"I can't come," said Martin, "I'm stuck to my seat."

One time some naughty boys knocked out the panel from the inside door. Luther Cree repaired it by putting the panel back and covering the crack

with a thin board. Between, he fastened a wire spring, so that it made a noise every time the door was opened or shut. This caused a good deal of amusement among the boys and more annoyance to the teacher.

#### SCHOOL DAYS OF 1850's

*Recalled By Ferd Chase in 1915*

"Of those of my day in the old schoolhouse by Sulloway's Shop, there is but one here besides myself, who was born in the village. He comes from good, old Vermont parents, Stephen G. Cree.

"May I enumerate the families who attended school here with me? On the Sutton Road were Charles Mathewson, Orin Nelson, and Samuel Nelson. On the Follett Road, Mrs. Mosher and Albertus Allen. On the Lyndon Road, Charles Welch, Joseph Mathewson, Calvin Eastman and Stephen Hosmer. On the Back Road there were Beri Eastman, George Nelson and Joseph Duntly, who made our hay rakes. On the Danville Road, Joseph Dow and William Clark. On the road to South Wheelock, Asa Leavitt, Jonathan Taylor and the Morgan families. On the Sheffield Road, Hiel Bradley. On the road past the sulphur spring, Caleb Miner and Hollis Ingalls. David Felker, a soldier in the War of 1812 and wounded at the Battle of Lundy's Lane below Niagara Falls, lived on the old Sutton Road at the Philip Mathewson farm.

"In the village were Sewall Bradley, John Merserve, Dr. Leavenworth, Judge Connor, Calvin Chase, William Chase, Lorenzo Sulloway, Jim Chesley, Noah Dean, Jesse Felker, Calvin Blake, Thomas Stetson, George Giffin, David Willey, George Heath, Dr. Hiram Hoyt and Judge Cree.

"As I recall Miss Ascha Mathewson was my first teacher and my last was her brother, Harley P. In those days if we got a licking at school and we did any complaining at home, we got another. Punishment was frequent, and a mild way was to stand

with toes to a crack and not move, or you would be told to hold down a nail with your thumb. The usual severe way was a few spats on your hand with a ruler and this often left blisters.

"On one occasion, a scholar who had taught school, was detected eating an apple and told to put it in the stove. He declined. A rawhide was produced and used until he obeyed. It had cut through the skin. An attempt was made to remove the teacher but failed, for the voters of the district sustained the teacher. No more trouble that winter.

"We had lots of fun at the old District School. During the last two weeks we had a round of spelling schools to attend. With us were Sheffield Hollow District; North Ridge, Sutton; Jonathan Richardson District, Sutton; Squabble Hollow District, Lyndon; Mosquito District, Lyndon; and Coffran District, South Wheelock. Choose your girl, take the old horse, and go it, if the roads were O. K.

"One winter I attended school at Squabble Hollow, doing chores for my board. One Otis was the teacher. One day he sent Jim McGaffey and Jake Welch to fix the stove pipe in the loft. It had come out of the chimney. There was no floor and the cross beams were far apart. Jim fell on the lath, it loosened from the beams, and he, lath and plaster reached the floor below about the same time. Jake then put his face to the opening and asked if he, too, could come down that way.

"We had a boy who could play the mouth organ quite well. At noon time we usually danced to popular tunes such as Money Musk, Old Zip Coon, Portland Fancy, etc."

#### LAST DAYS OF THE THIRD SCHOOLHOUSE

The schoolhouse next door to Sulloway's Shop served the district well until 1853, when it was moved "onto the ground on the east side of the Meetinghouse, said ground to be deeded to the district by T. J. Cree gratuitously for that purpose." Lorenzo Sulloway was given \$4.25 to get the building ready to haul to the proposed site and \$9 to underpin it. At a special meeting in May the District

failed to reconsider the vote taken in March, so the building was moved during the summer. A shed, 14 by 20 feet, was added, the schoolroom plastered, and the main building "Wharfed up around."

But this new location did not satisfy the public for long and in the next eight or nine years all manner of changes were suggested. Finally, after much vacillating on the part of the voters, they au-



thorized a new school to be built on the site it now occupies. T. J. Cree was paid \$25 for the land and the new school erected to the cost of around \$1200. On Saturday Oct. 5, 1861 at 6 o'clock in the evening the last of the old school vanished: the shed was auctioned off to Osborn Ward for \$10.25 and the house itself to Calvin Blake for \$13.50.

THE NEW SCHOOL

It was the erection of the new school on the hill beyond the meetinghouse in Wheelock Hollow that caused Judge T. J. Cree to write in his article for Hemenway's Gazetteer (*Vol. I, p. 433*):

Most of the schoolhouses are poor, but a better feeling is manifest in relation to them, and it is evident, from some late demonstrations, that better times are coming for the youth, as to good, commodious school houses—as one has been built at the village worthy of the name.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
DISTRICT NO. 4

In 1810, the year of the earliest records now in existence, Joshua Weeks and Thomas Mathewson served as school committee. Others serving from 1810 to 1890 include:

John Chase	Halsey Riley
Joseph Harris	Philip Mathewson
Nehemiah Phillips	Ward Bradley
Ezekial Weeks	Samuel Ayer
Samuel Weeks	J. M. Sanborn
Elijah Willard	Dr. Frederick Leavenworth
John White	Sewall Bradley
Gideon Leavitt	Hiel Bradley
Erastus Fairbanks	James Roberts, Jr.
Nathaniel Morgan	Calvin Chase
Horace Evans	T. J. Cree
Timothy Tilton	William Chase
Asa Leavitt	Lorenzo Sulloway, Sr.
John Weeks	Carley Gerald
Theophilus Folsom	Charles Mathewson

OTHERS ACTIVE IN SCHOOL AFFAIRS  
DISTRICT NO. 4

William Carter, Jr.	Azro B. Mathewson
S. B. Sanford	Ward Bradley, 2nd
Samuel Nelson	Osborn Ward
Benjamin Connor	Albertus Allen
Alvin T. Connor	David Willey
Orin Nelson	Henry Hoffman
Noah Dean	John Sanborn
Calvin Blake	Charles Welch
Moulton Nelson	James E. Chesley
H. A. Quimby	Chester Larnard

Aaron Melvin	Elijah Willard
George Giffin	Benjamin E. Squires
James McGaffey	Hiram Eastman
Charles H. Davis	Marshall S. Staples
Henry Perley	William J. Ranney
Daniel Ward	Dr. D. B. Leslie
Andrew Wolcott	Fred Hoffman
Ethan S. Nelson	Myron D. Park
E. C. Mathewson	H. P. King
Charles Rogers, Jr.	N. D. Sawyer
E. F. Kelley	Archibald Craig
T. A. Hoyt	George C. Nelson
Hollis B. Welch	Milo H. Burbank
Dr. T. R. Stiles	William H. Smith
George W. Nelson	George Barber
Jonathan Taylor	Henry C. Bates
M. D. Welch	

EARLY TEACHERS IN DISTRICT NO. 4

Sallie Batchelder	Delphine Nelson	
Harris Bickford	Amy Nelson	
George Blake	B. M. R. Nelson	
Adeline Bradley	Samuel Nelson	
Mary Carter	Elixia Spencer	1858
Anson Haskell	Jane Sulloway	
Moses Ingalls	B. F. Taylor	
Aurora McGaffey	Susan Trull	
Harley P. Mathewson	Sally Wakefield	1817
Azro B. Mathewson	Mrs. Dr. Ward	
Asha Mathewson	Miss Webber (Mary)	1854
Althea Mathewson	Josiah Willey	1820
Mr. Merrill	Jane Wilmarth	
Lucy Nelson	L. Worcester	1817
Alma Nelson		

TEACHERS IN THE NEW SCHOOLHOUSE

Ida Aniger	Lena Hoyt	1895
Andrew Atherton	Perley J. Johnson	
Earl Batchelder	Clinton Jones	
William Baxter	Martha Jones	
Leila Barber	Elva Kimball	
Perry Barber	Beatrice Kellogg	
Henry C. Bates	Carrie Lafoe	
Mrs. H. C. Bates	Agnes McGovern	
Amos P. Bean	Katherine McLean	
Sophia Blair	Ozias D. Mathewson	
Erma Brown	Maud Mathewson	
Edward Bundy	Carrie Mathewson	
Emma Carpenter	Agnes Miles	1902-05
Mary Campbell	Amy Nelson	1866
Mrs. A. J. Carter	Mary Parker	
Ona Carter	Gertrude Phillips	
George W. Cree	Grace Quimby	
Lilla Craig	Nellie Ranney	
Simeon Clark	Flora Rogers	
Samuel Drake	Carrie Rogers	
Dennis Duhigg, winter	Susie Rogers	
Charles M. Darling	Burleigh Spaulding	
Herbert Farnham	Loraine Simpson	
Louise Ferguson	Sadie Sheldon	
Esther Folsom	Annette Bundy Smith	
Gertrude Foss	William H. Taylor	
Ora Gray	Mabel Thurston	
E. J. Hatch	Mrs. Townsend	
George Hoffman	Clara Thompson	
Jennie Hoffman	Minnie Wark	
John Hoffman	Nellie Williams	
Lyla Hoffman	Mary Willard	
Martha Hubbard	Roswell Wilmarth	

## SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOLS

Funds for the support of schools came from several sources. First: the districts were authorized to raise money for school purposes by a rate, or tax, on the polls and ratable property of the inhabitants of the district. At first such a tax could not be levied without two-thirds of the inhabitants' consent. This was repealed in 1809. Again, any property owned by a person not living in the district could not be taxed for school purposes until 1818.

Second: the rate bill was sometimes supplemented by subscriptions, which could be collected by the district collector like a tax.

Third: the towns were empowered to raise such "sum or sums of money as shall think proper" for the support of "English Schools." This money was divided among the school districts, according to the number of children between the ages of four and eighteen in each district. The district clerk took the school census in March each year. If any district failed to maintain a school, it forfeited its right to any part of the public money. In 1810 the towns were required to raise a tax of at least 1 percent for school purposes, and the districts must hold at least two months of schooling during the year. The town tax was raised to 2 percent in 1824; 3 percent in 1827; and to 9 percent in 1842.

In 1825 a State School Fund was established which was to accumulate until the interest on it would support a free school in each school district in the state for two months each year. The state, however, "borrowed" this fund in 1833.

The plan of apportioning school expenses according to the number of pupils attending was tried in 1839. The income from the United States Deposit Money was also used for schools. This plan continued in force until 1850, when a law was passed requiring money used for the payment of teachers' salaries be raised on the grand list; all other school expenses were to be apportioned according to the number of pupils in each family. In 1864 the entire school expense was raised on the grand list.

## SUPERVISION OF SCHOOLS

The earliest schools received little, or no, supervision. It is probably true that the "prudential committee" exercised some oversight, for it had the power to remove the schoolmaster and make some choice in the selection of books used. In 1817 at the Town Meeting of March 17, it was "Voted to

Choose a Committee to visit the schools in this town & recommend such Books as will be most Consistent. Chose Erastus Fairbanks, Joshua Lane and Moses Darling a Committee for that purpose."

By 1827 towns in the state were required to elect at the annual meeting a "superintending committee" of three, five or seven members. This committee had "general charge and superintendence" of the public schools in the town. It examined and certified teachers, selected "class books," visited schools, made returns to the Secretary of State, etc. On March 10, 1829 Wheelock chose for its Superintending Committee, Elisha Bigelow, Frederick Leavenworth and John Brown.

In 1845 the Vermont Legislature enacted a law providing for Town Superintendents to be elected annually at March Meeting. Their compensation was not to exceed one dollar per day for the time actually employed. Their duties remained the same for nearly fifty years.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS IN WHEELOCK  
1846-1891

Johnson Bean	1846	William Hart	1864
Joseph Dow	1847	William Hart	1865
Charles Rogers	1848	William Baxter	1866
Albertus Allen	1849	Rev. W. A. Robinson	1867
Hiram P. Hoyt	1850	Horace P. Magoon	1868
Charles Rogers	1851	Stephen M. Jones	1869
Harvey Wilmot	1852	Rev. B. S. Moody	1870
Nathaniel Meserve	1853	Rev. B. S. Moody	1871
Dr. Reuben M. Gray	1854	Rev. B. S. Moody	1872
Rev. Jonathan Woodman		Rev. B. S. Moody	1873
to succeed Dr. Gray	1854	Rev. B. S. Moody	1874
George Scott )		William H. Jones	1875
Charles Rogers )	1855	Simeon Bolles	1876
Charles Rogers	1856	Aaron Chandler	1877
B. M. R. Nelson	1857	Aaron Chandler	1878
William Merrill )		Samuel A. Jones	1879
William B. Jones )	1858	Samuel A. Jones	1880
B. M. R. Nelson	1859	Samuel A. Jones	1881
Harley P. Mathewson)		Susie E. Rogers	1882-1885
Harris S. Bickford )	1860	Ozias D. Mathewson	
Rev. Horace Storey	1861		1886-1888
Rev. Horace Storey	1862	W. H. Taylor	1889-1890
Charles H. Davis )		Rev. F. M. Buker	1891
Rev. Horace Storey)	1863		

## SCHOOL CENSUS FOR DISTRICT NO. 4 MARCH 1864

<i>Heads of Families</i>	<i>Children</i>
Albertus Allen	Emma
Mrs. Judd	William
Samuel Rines	Ellen, Emily, Clara
Searles Willey	Charles
Orin Nelson	Alma, Myron, Orin
Henry Hoffman	James, Lucy
Charles Welch	Hollis, Merritt



Paul F. Gerrish  
 William Chase  
 Calvin Blake  
 Asa L. Barber  
 Jesse B. Felker  
  
 H. S. Bickford  
 Henry Perley  
 Aaron Melvin  
 Daniel Ward  
 James E. Chesley  
 George Heath  
 Ward Bradley, 2nd  
 John Sanborn  
 Joseph Dow  
 John Eastman  
 Beri Eastman  
 Hiram Locklin  
     Priest  
 Sylvester Day  
 John E. Meserve

Mary Jane  
 Eliza, Abbie, Lucina  
 Alice, Byron  
 Julia, Aldis  
 Sophia, Ruth, Phoebe,  
 David, Jesse  
 Clemmar, Juliet  
 Frederick, Ella  
 Ella  
 Nellie  
 Nellie, Lilla  
 Frederick, Clara  
 Hiel, Dennison  
 Ella, Emma, Amos, Charles  
 Harvey, Julia, Adeline  
 John, Caroline  
 Hannah, Eli, Hiram  
 Lovina, Abbie, Charles, Mary  
 George  
 Martha, Jessie  
 Sarah

### WHEELOCK SCHOOL DISTRICTS 1890

- |        |                              |
|--------|------------------------------|
| No. 2  | Chandler District            |
| No. 3  | Peak District                |
| No. 4  | Village District             |
| No. 5  | Morgan District              |
| No. 6  | Red Schoolhouse District     |
| No. 7  | McGovern District (Mountain) |
| No. 8  | Piperville District          |
| No. 9  | Timothy Hill District        |
| No. 10 | West Wheelock District       |

In 1892 the town system was adopted for all towns in the state and the school districts disappeared as independent units.

### WOMAN'S RIGHT

A woman was expected to take an active part in school affairs and was allowed to vote. But, of course, she wasn't expected to carry things too far.

Upon the death of Joseph Hoyt, his widow, the former Mary Ann Weeks, was left with the problem of rearing and educating five sons. In the Peak District school meeting the question arose of having an extra term of school that year. Mrs. Hoyt was in favor of the extra term, knowing how much her sons would benefit from all the schooling they could get. The majority, however, was undecided. It was voted to hold another meeting at which the final vote would be taken.

In due course the Warning was posted on the schoolhouse door. Mrs. Hoyt's anxiety mounted as the days passed. She wondered if the extra term would be rejected by the voters.

The night before the meeting, she tucked the children in bed, made sure they were fast asleep, and, throwing on her cloak, started for the nearby schoolhouse. It was a moonlit night and the snowy crust was firm underfoot. She quickly reached the school, tore the Warning off the door, and hurried home.

The following day the district turned out in full force for the meeting. The moderator stepped to the teacher's platform. He called for the Warning to be brought in from the door. There was no Warning there. The meeting could not be held. There were less than ten days before the opening of the proposed school term, so another meeting could not be called in the meantime. Mrs. Hoyt's boys had an extra term of schooling that year.

*(As told by Mrs. Grace Mathewson and Mrs. Daniel Gilman)*

## Chapter XXIV

# Doctors

*The climate is healthy and for the truth of this assertion I might appeal to the longevity of the inhabitants, many of whom enjoy what the Physicians call the YOUTH OF OLD AGE . . . Ira Allen, History of Vermont 1798*

That great things were expected of the new settlement of Wheelock is shown by the number of doctors that came to it in the early years. If longevity were to be the fate of the inhabitants, minor illnesses could afflict them even in a healthy climate. The sudden rush of settlers in the first twenty years and the large families that were raised made encouraging conditions for the medical men.

DR. RUFUS NERY was one of the original lessees, taking Lot No. 106 on the Danville line. There is no record that he ever set up practice, however.

DR. WILLIAM GUY, on the other hand, took an active part in the town both as an office holder and a physician. On the original plat of the town lots, Dr. Guy held Lot No. 68, Lot No. 48 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot No. 203. His name is mentioned in connection with Lot No. 68 on Sept. 10, 1794, this lot being sold by Dr. Guy to Archaelus Woodman on Sept. 12, 1795. (*Mathewson Papers from Land Records*) At the town meeting of March 1795 Dr. Guy was elected town clerk, also a hayward, showing that he had been married within the past year. In December 1796 he was one of three members of the committee to superintend the building of the first meeting house. 1797 saw him serving as lister for the town. But on March 13, 1798 Abner Hoyt was chosen to take the place on the building committee of Dr. Guy, "who had removed from town." As late as January 1815, however, Dr. Guy is listed as owing rent of L 13—2 s—6 d. to Dartmouth College.

DR. JOHN MEIGS, known in the Meigs Genealogy as John Meigs 6th, was born in Claremont, N. H., the son of Dr. Abner and Sarah (Church) Meigs. His brothers, Anson of St. Johnsbury and Heman Meigs, also appear on the Wheelock Grand List for 1812, being taxed for livestock but not for polls. As it is recorded that Dr. John Meigs sold

Lot No. 68 to Ephraim Chamberlin, it may be supposed that he made his home and office in South Wheelock, tradition placing him where A. Blake later lived. He paid a tax in town in 1799 and voted in 1800. He was elected a hayward in 1801, having married Abigail Weeks of town. In 1811 the minutes of the Union School District note that Dr. Meigs was excused from serving on the prudential committee and it is inferred that he moved about that time to Lyndon, where he made his home. He was not taxed in Wheelock after 1812. He died in 1822 and his death is noted in the letter of Suzannah Morrill Weeks to her folks in Canterbury, N. H. (*Dartmouth College Archives*) One of his sons, John Meigs 7th, graduated from the University of Vermont Medical School and settled in Hyde Park, Vt., practicing medicine there until his death in December 1862. He had been born in Wheelock July 13, 1806. A son of Heman Meigs was also born in Wheelock and likewise named John. He became a doctor in Stanstead, P. Q. This is the same Meigs family in which the curious name of Return Jonathan, and the girl twins, Silence and Submit, appear in early annals. (*Meigs Family, VHS Collections, Montpelier*)

DR. THOMAS PEACH was another early doctor in Wheelock, although little can be found about him. Tradition has it that he and his wife are buried in Ramsay Corner Cemetery but the gravestones do not verify this.

DR. JONATHAN GRIFFIN married Nancy Hildrick of Derby, Vt. Mar. 16, 1807. A Dr. J. Parmason Griffin was elected a hayward in 1809 and was on the poll tax list for this year, while Dr. Jonathan Griffin appears as a taxpayer in 1808, when he was taxed for one horse. This may have been the same man, trying out two ways of signing his name. "Jonathan" may have been the one chosen for permanent use, as uncollected letters were advertised for



such a person at Wheelock postoffice in the Jan. 19, 1811 issue of the *North Star*, Danville. A son, Charles Griffin, born in Wheelock Aug. 30, 1808 moved to Indiana in 1830 and died there in 1878.

DR. CYRUS ROOT was born in Strafford, Vt. in 1780. He graduated from the Medical Institution at Hanover, N. H. and commenced practice in his native town. He moved to Wheelock, where he married Mehitabel Spencer in 1808. He was elected poundkeeper in 1809. He lived on what was later called the Jeffers place, opposite Fifield's Tavern. He named a son born in 1816, Edward Fifield Root. Dr. Root's daughter, Betsey, married Samuel H. Jones, son of Henry Jones of Canterbury, N. H. and (after 1816) Wheelock.

The following urgent reminder was inserted in the *North Star*:

#### PAY ME WHAT THOU OWEST

An ancient moralist says that money is the root of all evil. Experiencing, however, more evil from the want of money than from any other source, the subscriber flatters himself that those who are indebted to him will indiscriminately furnish the proportions of said root justly his claim by the 15th of April next, that he may have an opportunity, by fair experiment, of trying the force of the maxim. If this hint is disregarded, the *Clynical* process of law, which is peculiarly calculated to produce the desired *extraction*, will be resorted to without delay.

Cyrus Root

Wheelock March 28, 1814

Dr. Cyrus Root died in Wheelock Feb. 23, 1827 and is buried in the Drown Cemetery.

DR. JOHN MONROE, a "root and herb" doctor with probably no medical school diploma, was a colorful and influential practitioner in Wheelock during the most flourishing years of the town's rising population. He, too, resorted to using the *North Star* as his collection agent:

Dr. John Monroe is determined on an immediate settlement with all delinquents. If their accounts are not adjusted within three weeks from this date, they will find themselves in the hands of an attorney at Lyndon Corner. Although he wishes to practice on the parable of the Good Samaritan, yet he has somewhere seen the adage "Charity Begins At Home."

*North Star* Dec. 25, 1813

John Monroe is supposed to have lived in a house in the William Thomas field, a little south of

#### NOTICE.

**T**HE Subscriber would inform all indebted to him by book or note, that they must settle the same by the 20th instant, or their accounts will be left with an Attorney for collection, as he is about to leave the town in which he now resides. This threat will be put into execution indiscriminately, should a noncompliance render it necessary.

JOHN MONROE.

where the crossroad from Chandler Pond meets the County road. He came to Wheelock around 1815; was "warned out of town" in 1817; and may not have lived there after 1821. His *American Botanist and Family Physician* was published by Jonathan Morrison at Wheelock in 1824.

DR. WINTHROP BABBITT, son of Uri Babbitt of Danville, practiced medicine in Wheelock for a time, following his graduation from the University of Vermont Medical School in 1827. Uri Babbitt was one of the Danville petitioners for the annexation to that town of Walden Gore, Oct. 12, 1792 (*State Papers of Vt. Vol. IX, pp. 445-446*)

DR. FREDERICK LEAVENWORTH was the son of Jesse Leavenworth, Jr. and a grandson of Col. Jesse Leavenworth, one of the original proprietors of Danville and Cabot. After coming to Wheelock from Danville in 1829, Jesse Leavenworth, Jr. kept a tavern, known as Leavenworth's Stand, on the old County road in South Wheelock near the Samuel Jones place at the crossroads and millsite.

Dr. Leavenworth was born May 11, 1794, the second of six children of Jesse Leavenworth, Jr. and his first wife, Nancy Pope. In Danville in 1817 he married Sarah Whitaker. While in Danville, he studied medicine with Dr. Samuel Collins, a relative of his mother, and was admitted to practice in 1816 or 1817. Immediately after, he located in Wheelock Hollow, choosing the site where B. F. Taylor later lived. His shop stood on the ledge at the roadside right in front of his house. He is said to have had a thorough knowledge of medicine for those times and had an extensive practice in Wheelock, Sheffield and neighboring towns.

Ferd Chase recalled that Dr. Leavenworth's favorite remedy was "lobelia." This native plant was widely used for curing horses and humans and this may, in some part, account for its rarity today. "Failing in doing the desired cure," wrote Chase, "resort was had to Pillery, or Blue Mass, then Castor

Oil. He was an expert on extracting teeth with the Turnkey. His strength being equal to the Jaw, something had to come, tooth or jaw, sometimes a good slice of both."

Danville May 5, 1832

Dr. Frederick Leavenworth, Dr.  
Bt of Dan'l P. Dana & Co.

1# Borax refd		42
2# Crem Tart	2/	67
1# Rad Columbo	4	67
1/2 # ful Urua Ursi	2/3	56
1/4 # Gum Gamboge	9/9	41
3/8 Blue Pill	12/	75
1 1/2 dz. Phial Corks		19
1 dz. Phials		33

\$4.00

cd in account

Dan'l P. Dana & Co.

By Vail

Dr. Leavenworth was the father of three children, Cynthia, Melina and Harriett. In 1845 ill health, brought on from overwork in his large practice of medicine, forced him to retire. He moved to Dorchester, Mass. and died there Dec. 12, 1854.

DR. HIRAM P. HOYT succeeded Dr. Leavenworth in Wheelock village. He served as Town Superintendent of Schools in 1850. In 1851, however, he moved to St. Johnsbury where he built the Hoyt block on Railroad Street and operated a drug store.

"DR." ASA B. HUBBARD, a root and herb healer, was dignified by the name of doctor, although not a medical school graduate. He lived in Wheelock in the Sherburn neighborhood from 1848-1879.

SABRA SULLAM was another botanic specialist in 1853.

DR. REUBEN M. GRAY took over Dr. Hoyt's practice as a qualified doctor in 1851. He built a house across the street from the Brick Hotel and used for office and apothecary shop the building later used by T. J. Cree as a law office. Dr. Gray served as town school superintendent in 1854.

DR. AMERICUS J. CARTER, a native of Kentucky, graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia and from the State University of Missouri at St. Louis. He commenced practice at Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he remained for five years, afterwards moving to Cassville, Mo. After his marriage to Mary Leavitt of Wheelock, who had gone to the South to teach, he returned with his wife to Wheelock in 1865. They had five children: Oscar

E., who became a physician in Danville; George A., a physician in Hardwick; Roscoe, a dentist in Lyndonville; Mary O., who married H. C. Moorehouse and lived in Lyndon Center; and Annie Yosemite, who married Elbridge Pierce of Littleton, N. H. Dr. Carter practiced in Wheelock until 1890 when he moved to Lyndon Center and spent his last years.

DR. TRUMAN R. STILES practiced in Wheelock during the years 1871-1877. He lived in the village in the first house south of the Grange Hall. He was a native of Stowe, Vt. and graduated from the University of Vermont Medical School with a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1869. He first practiced in Hardwick and, after leaving Wheelock, he practiced in Barnet and St. Johnsbury. At the latter place he established a reputation for the successful treatment of asthma. He died in St. Johnsbury in 1931.

DR. WALTER H. WEEKS, born in Wheelock Feb. 27, 1856, received his education in the public schools of Lowell, Mass. and graduated from the Boston University School of Medicine in 1877. He then returned to Wheelock, settling in the western part of the township as a farmer and doctor. He served as Town Representative in 1892.

DR. WALTER HALL is believed to have practiced medicine at Wheelock Hollow from 1880-1882.

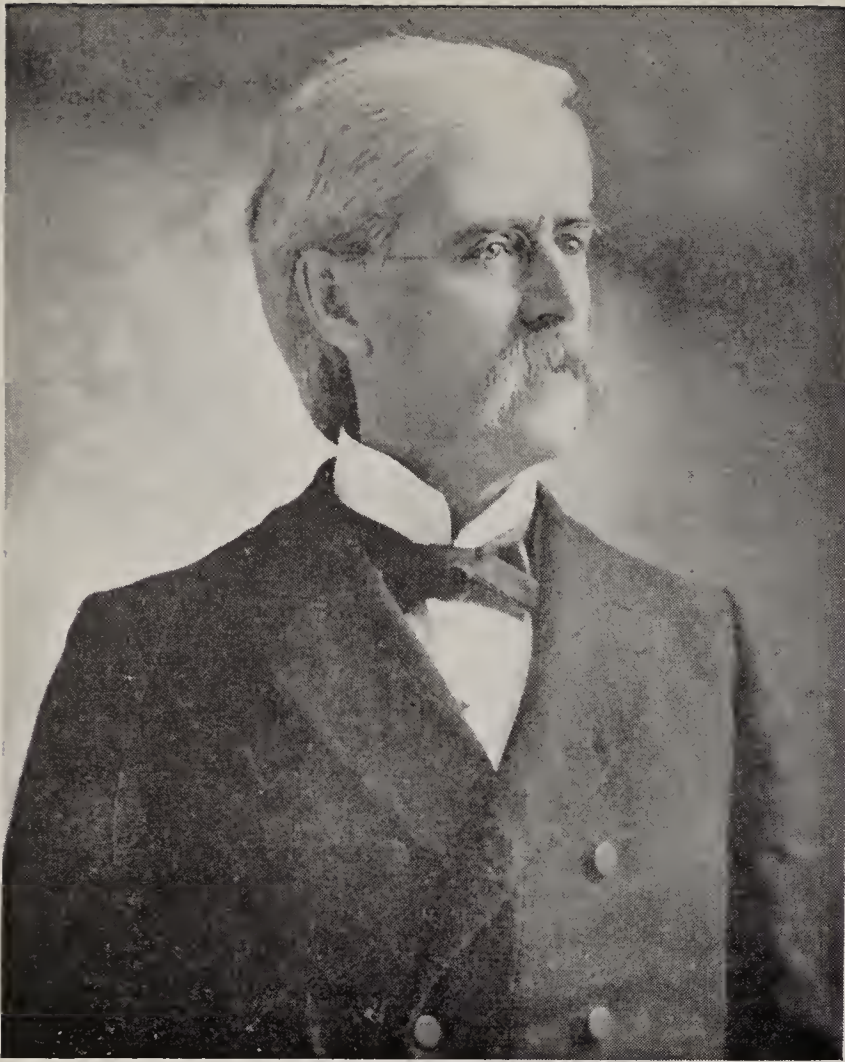
DR. SAMUEL A. JONES, son of Samuel H. and Betsey (Root) Jones, followed the profession of his grandfather, Dr. Cyrus Root, and graduated from the University of Vermont Medical School in 1883. He practiced in South Wheelock for some six months, while at the home of his father, and then settled in Sheffield. His extensive practice in the years that followed covered Wheelock as well as his adopted town.

DR. DANFORTH B. LESLIE, son of Walker C. Leslie who lived on the road to Piperville, was a Wheelock dentist. He succeeded J. H. Smith who had been practicing dentistry there from 1871-1874. Dr. Leslie continued in business for many years and served the town in many public offices as well. He was Town Representative in 1898 and moderator of town meetings continuously from 1899 to 1913.

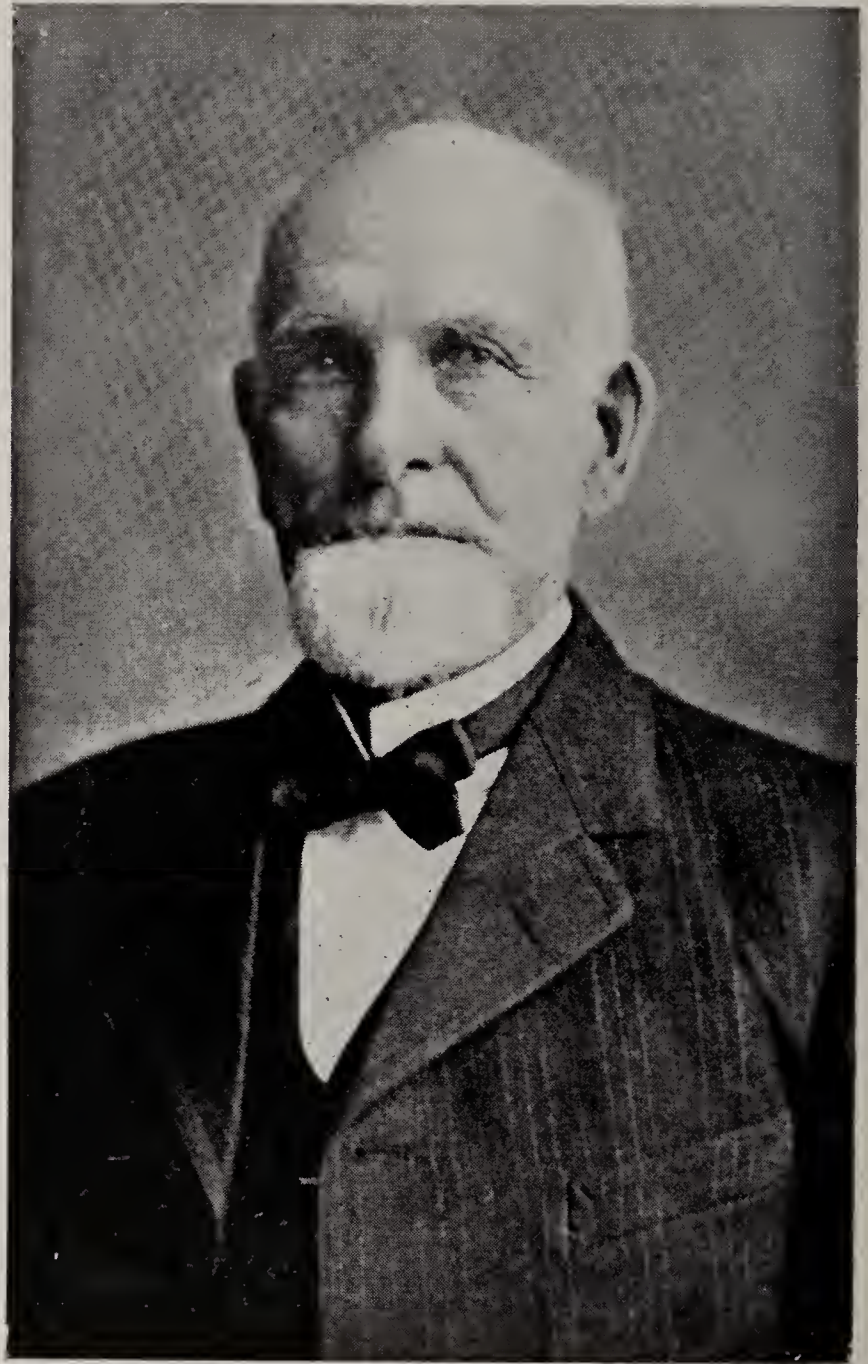
DR. W. C. BLAKE, a graduate of the University of Vermont Medical School in 1885, practiced for six months while in the Conner house, before moving to Lyndon Corner.



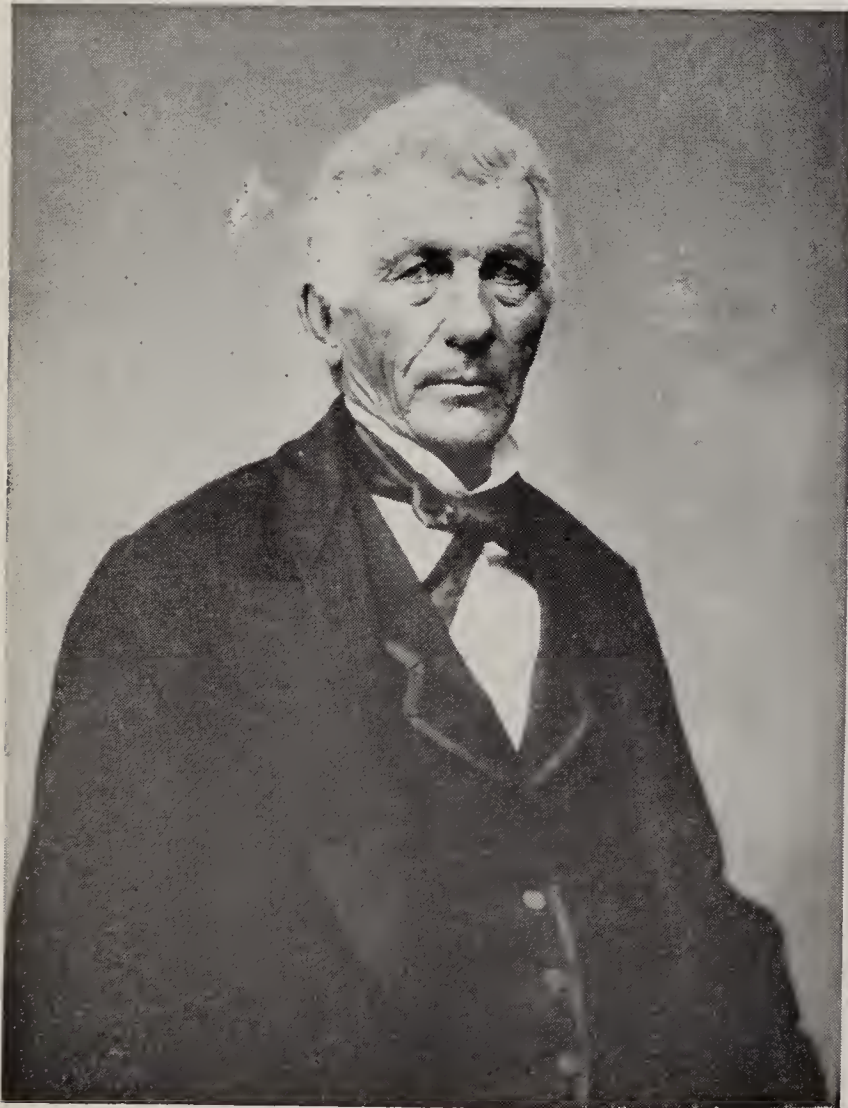
## Legal Advisors



HENRY C. BATES



CHARLES ROGERS, JR.



THOMAS JEFFERSON CREE



## Chapter XXV

# Lawyers

“Wheelock has had few practicing lawyers,” wrote Judge William H. Taylor, when contributing his findings on this subject to the historical research of the town.

It is evident from early records that the local Justices of the Peace, in conjunction with the County Sheriff, did most of the routine legal work of the new settlement. In some instances the inhabitants took matters in their own hands.

### LOCAL JUSTICE

Jesse Felker had been over the mountain spear-  
ing pickerel one Saturday night. It was well known in the village that the neighbors furnished him stove wood and much from the schoolhouse shed as well. As the shed had no door on it, the custom was to pile wood in the opening as high as a man could reach. The shed had just been filled. It is presumed that Felker got some of this wood, as early Monday morning he went to Lyndon and purchased a new stove. The boys had bored holes in the end of some of the sticks and filled them with powder.

When compiling the following notes on Wheelock lawyers, Judge Taylor modestly refrained from mentioning that several who had started their legal practice there later on went on to positions of importance and public trust in other places.

AUGUSTINE CLARK was the first resident lawyer, being reported in the Vermont Register of 1804 as an attorney in Wheelock. While living there, he was admitted to the bar in 1806. He was also the first postmaster to receive formal appointment, in 1807. He later moved to Danville, then the county seat. It appears that he did not confine himself to the practice of law, as he was accustomed to refer to himself as “trader.” In 1815 he was granted a retailer’s license to sell “foreign distilled spirits and wines” at Danville. The sale of spirits in those days was probably more profitable than the practice of law. That the business did not cause him to lose caste in the community is evidenced by the fact that he was elected Assistant Judge of Caledonia County for 1824-1825 and State Treasurer from 1833-1836.

BENJAMIN CONNER, a resident of Wheelock, was called “Judge” after serving a term as Associate Judge of the Caledonia County Court 1835-1837.

THOMAS JEFFERSON CREE, better known as Judge Cree, was an early lawyer whose influence left a lasting impression on the town. His ancestors in America settled in Boxford, Mass., later moving to New Boston, N. H. His wife, Anne Stone, was the daughter of Rev. Moses Stone, a minister in Cabot, Vt. On their wedding day, Jan. 1, 1834, they rode in a sleigh to Wheelock, where he made his home until his death in 1880. He was elected Sheriff of Caledonia County in 1840 and, while holding this office, gave considerable attention to the study of law. After retiring, he continued his studies with John Beckwith of Sutton and was admitted to the bar of Caledonia County Court in 1851. He served as Assistant Judge, 1848-1851, and thence derived his title. Judge Cree had a thorough knowledge of legal matters and principles and was much relied upon by the community for legal advice.

He served as Dartmouth College Agent the greater part of his life in Wheelock and received the yearly sum of \$11 as recognition for his services. An amount that Daniel Blaisdell, college treasurer, wrote was “rather more than the above average.” Blaisdell was very cordial in his letters, however, showing that he and the college were pleased with the Judge’s work. On Jan. 29, 1866 he acknowledged receipt of some “curiously small corn, which I intend to plant and hope to have green corn earlier than my neighbors.” Thus did two countrymen exchange courtesies.

Judge Cree’s correspondence was extensive. Letters from Gov. Erastus Fairbanks and his son, Horace Fairbanks, dealt with the proposed Essex County Branch Railroad that would be a line from St. Johnsbury to Island Pond, thus linking the Connecticut & Passumpsic with the Grand Trunk line.

Wrote Horace Fairbanks from St. Johnsbury on Nov. 18, 1862:

In our business we must hereafter look to the line of the proposed railroad for all our supplies of lumber, coal and wood. We are now con-



suming at the rate of 1,200,000 feet of lumber, 1,000,000 tons of charcoal and from 1000 to 2000 cords of wood per annum.

You will see from this that a R. R. would be a great benefit to us. Unless we have such an opening into that wooded county, the time will come when we shall be obliged to curtail our business or establish our manufacturing elsewhere.

We think if this connection were made with the Grand Trunk R. R. it could not fail to be a good thing for the Passumpsic R. R.

Judge Cree was local agent for the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company and the Vermont Mutual Fire Insurance Company. During the time of the War of the Union he was in constant correspondence with the Wheelock soldiers and afterwards helped arrange pensions, write up their war records and tend to any legal matters.

Nor was his correspondence purely local. Among his papers was a letter from Abram Hewitt, Mayor of New York City, and correspondence with Senator Justin Morrill, then in Washington, D. C. (*Cree Family Papers*)

HON. CHARLES ROGERS, although not admitted to practice, deserves to be mentioned as a legal advisor. His long experience as Justice of the Peace and the training of many years in public service, coupled with an unusual amount of sound common sense and business judgment, eminently fitted him for this post.

Charles Rogers, Jr. was born in Alton, N. H. on

Aug. 28, 1823, one of a family of nine children all of whom lived to be over 75 years of age. He came with his parents to Wheelock in 1828, his father taking up Lots No. 84 and one half of 83 in South Wheelock. Charles later moved to the Hollow, where he bought the farm originally owned by Joshua Weeks. He was town surveyor for over fifty years and held many other town offices. He was Associate Judge for Caledonia County from 1868-1870 and was often called "Judge" thereafter. He was Caledonia County Senator in 1872 and 1874.

CHARLES H. DAVIS, son-in-law of Judge Cree, was associated with him in a law office in Wheelock 1862-1864. Davis was a relative of the lawyer, Bliss Davis, of Danville.

HENRY C. BATES opened a law office in Wheelock for a short time after the conclusion of his studies with Edwards & Dickerman of Newport, Vt. and his subsequent admission to the bar June 1866. While in Wheelock he and his wife, the former Laura E. Jenness, taught school in the "New Schoolhouse" at the Hollow. Mr. Bates soon after moved to St. Johnsbury, where he entered into partnership with Elisha May, attorney-at-law. Following a notable political career in the state, for which he was Lieut. Governor 1898-1899, Henry C. Bates was appointed by President McKinley in 1901 to the Philippines. He became Judge of the Court of the First Instance in Iloilo, Island of Panay, for the six years prior to his death in Berkeley, Calif. in 1909.

## Chapter XXVI

# Ministers

BENJAMIN PAGE, of Gilmanton, N. H., was ordained in Cabot, Vt. Mar. 2, 1803. He probably began preaching in Wheelock about 1809 and remained in town until 1815, when he removed to Ogden, N. Y.

SAMUEL GILMAN was ordained in Wheelock in 1815.

JONATHAN NELSON was born in Barnstead, N. H. in 1777. In Wheelock he lived on the road from the village to Sutton and was a farmer. He married Betsey Collins and they had nine children. He was ordained in 1819 by the Wheelock Quarterly Meeting and preached at South Wheelock 1827-1832 and at the Hollow 1836-1841. He died Nov. 29, 1843 and is buried in the village cemetery.

SHUBEL BOSTON preached at South Wheelock 1832-1841. He was ordained in 1826 and died Dec. 23, 1841, aged 52 years. He is buried in the South Wheelock cemetery.

HORATIO W. HARRIS was born in Orford, N. H. in November 1808 and died in Corinth, Vt. March 10, 1865. He preached at South Wheelock in 1842-1843. Tradition says that he was a man of ability and power in the pulpit.

DANIEL JACKSON, pastor at Wheelock Hollow from Feb. 25, 1832-1834, was born in Madison, N. H. Oct. 12, 1804. He was one of Elder Jonathan Woodman's converts and was ordained at East Ossipee, N. H. Sept. 14, 1826. At one time he was pastor of the church at Lyndon Center and was active in the general work of the Freewill Baptist denomination.

JOHN DAVIS was born in Plaistow, N. H. Sept. 1, 1802 and died at South Boston, Mass. Nov. 10, 1885. He preached at South Wheelock 1843-1846 and at the Hollow in 1842. He also had parishes at Lyndon, Glover and North Danville.

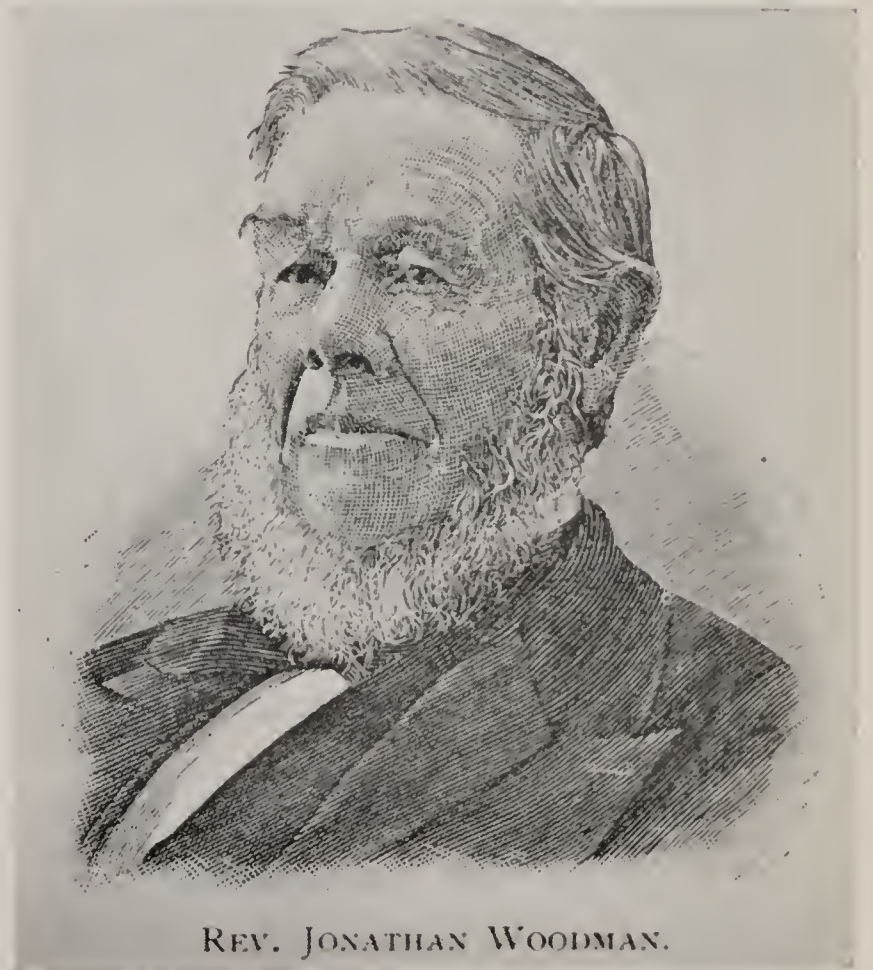
J. E. FLANDERS was born in Strafford, Vt. Mar. 11, 1807. He was ordained in Ohio Jan. 19, 1840. He was a pastor at South Wheelock 1847-1849.

GEORGE KING was ordained in Goshen Gore Oct. 1, 1856. He preached at South Wheelock

1849-1850. He died in Sutton, Vt. Nov. 1, 1872, aged 57 years.

JOHN GARFIELD was born in Barre, Vt. April 15, 1801 and died at West Wheelock Jan. 3, 1878. He was a Methodist preacher for twenty years, but when a Freewill Baptist church was organized in Goshen Gore Sept. 11, 1841 he was ordained its pastor. He also preached at South Wheelock 1851-1854.

WILLIAM MERRILL preached at South Wheelock 1855-1857.



REV. JONATHAN WOODMAN.

JONATHAN WOODMAN was probably the most widely known of all the ministers connected with the Wheelock churches. He was licensed to preach by the Freewill Baptist Society in Sutton, Vt. In 1816, when only eighteen years old, he attended a Yearly Meeting in Parsonfield, Me., where he preached a powerful sermon to which more than one hundred persons attributed their conversion. At the age of twenty he was ordained pastor of the church at Effingham, N. H. He was instrumental in estab-



lishing the Freewill Baptist weekly paper, *Morning Star*, suggesting this name for the publication. In 1828 he was a member of the first General Baptist Conference and offered the opening prayer. In 1843 he became the president of the first State Anti-Slavery Society. He was president of the Home Missionary Society in 1840 and from 1848 to 1850 president of the Foreign Mission Society. He was pastor at Wheelock Hollow 1854-1866. He was a powerful preacher and a beloved pastor.

HORACE STOREY was pastor at South Wheelock 1860-1865. He was town superintendent of schools in 1861 and 1862.

SETH PERKINS preached at South Wheelock 1866-1868, also at the Hollow in 1866. He died in Hollis, Me. June 13, 1881, aged 70 years, 9 months.

A. W. ROBINSON preached at Wheelock Hollow 1867-1868.

FREDERICK L. WILLEY was born in Maryland, N. Y. Mar. 16, 1836. He was ordained Sept. 8, 1868 and the following year came to Wheelock. In 1869 he supplied both churches. It was during his pastorate that the custom of two services on Sunday began to change to one service.

BENJAMIN S. MOODY was born in Limington, Me. Aug. 7, 1823. He preached at the Hollow in 1870-1871 and again in 1885, and at South Wheelock 1871-1874. He was town superintendent of schools much of this time.

HORACE STILES was born in Danville, Vt. Apr. 7, 1824 and was ordained Mar. 11, 1866. He was married to Betsey C. Smalley on Nov. 29, 1849. He preached at Wheelock Hollow 1871-1874. During his ministry, the church membership was substantially increased.

SIMEON BOLLES was born in Bethlehem, N. H. Apr. 16, 1830. He was educated at the Theological School, New Hampton Institute, New Hampton, N. H. and was ordained at Concord, Vt. He

preached at South Wheelock 1874-1876. He wrote *The Early History of Bethlehem, N. H.*

MOSES C. HENDERSON was born in Meredith, N. H. in 1819 and was ordained in 1842. He did missionary work in Nova Scotia with Rev. Mark Atwood. He was pastor at Lyndon Center for eight years and at Wheelock Hollow 1875-1879. While preaching in Corinth, Vt. he represented the town in the Legislature in 1856, and was representative for Lyndon in 1863 and 1864. He performed many marriage ceremonies and officiated at nearly a thousand funerals. He married Susan K. Wood in 1843 and they had one son, Ola H. Henderson, who later became ticket agent at the St. Johnsbury railroad station. Rev. Mr. Henderson died in St. Johnsbury in 1904.

MARK ATWCOD was born in Rochester, Vt. Nov. 19, 1820 and was ordained at Franklin, Vt. in 1840. He preached at Sutton, Sheffield, North Danville, and Wheelock village 1879-1885. He married Lovina Davis and they had five boys and three girls. He died at St. Johnsbury in March 1898.

LUCIAN G. CLARK was born in Thetford, Vt. January 1841. He served in Company A 15th Vt. Vols. during the War of the Union. He was ordained at Morrisville, Vt. June 1876 and was pastor at South Wheelock in 1878.

RUFUS J. RUSSELL was born in Highgate, Vt. Dec. 3, 1835 and was ordained June 23, 1881. His first pastorate was at South Wheelock 1884-1887. On March 30, 1859 he married Lettie E. Brill. It was during his pastorate that the present church at South Wheelock was built.

JAMES C. NELSON was born in Plymouth, N. H. Nov. 24, 1838 and was ordained in 1880. He enlisted as a private in the 12th New Hampshire Vols. and became 1st Lieutenant. He preached at Wheelock Hollow and at South Wheelock 1888-1889.



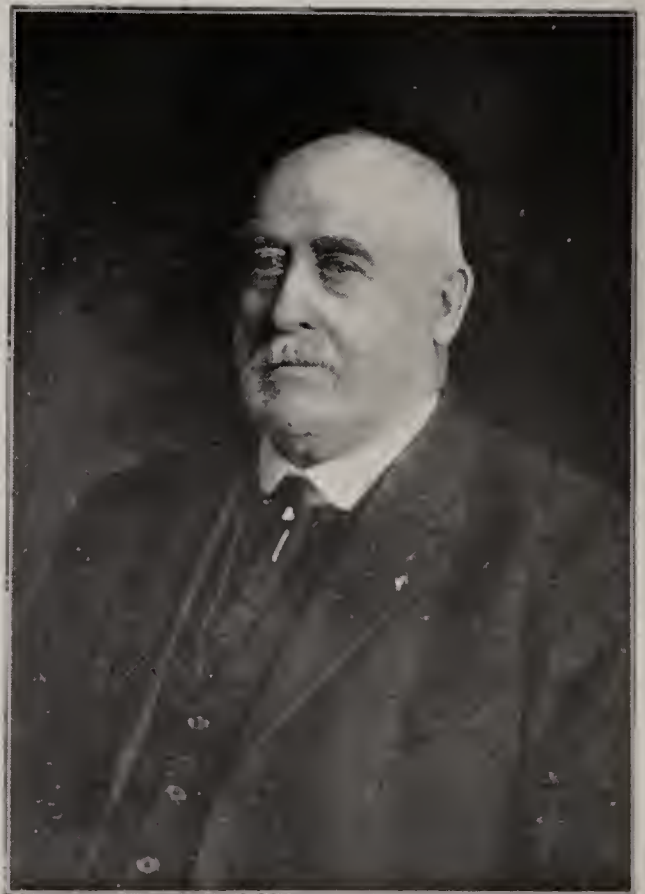
W.H. Taylor



D.A. Mathewson



Ogova S. Davis



75 Years 4 Apr

Sincerely Yours  
Fred Chase



## Chapter XXVII

# Native Sons

*"We have neither presidents nor fools to write about."*

That was the response of Judge T. J. Cree in 1867 to the request of Miss Abby Hemenway for biographies of notable people in Wheelock to be put in her Gazetteer. Perhaps there were no extremes such as he remarked, but there were native sons of Wheelock who lived interesting and useful lives, both in that community and in larger ones.

ELDER JONATHAN WOODMAN was born in Wheelock March 27, 1798, the youngest of the seven children of Deacon John Woodman of Newbury, Mass. and the former Sarah Foy of Strafford, N. H. He was ordained in 1818 and became a powerful figure in the Freewill Baptist Church of Vermont and New Hampshire during his long and active life. He led a movement of churches in the Wheelock Quarterly Meeting to reorganize church business organization and practices and during that time persuaded the Wheelock Hollow congregation to adopt the principles of the General Baptist Church in 1831. He was responsible for activating the church society at Sutton and became its first pastor in 1837, continuing such service for nearly forty years.

He married first, 1819, Charlotte Jackson of Madison, N. H. and they had three children. His second marriage was to Mrs. Mercy B. Eaton of North Danville and they had one child.

Elder Woodman was active in promoting the educational work of the Freewill Baptists. In 1848 he was a delegate to the General Baptist Conference in England. He died in North Tewksbury, Mass. Jan. 18, 1888 and is buried in Sutton, Vt.

DEACON BENJAMIN SANBORN born Wheelock Oct. 16, 1798; died in Lyndonville Aug. 28, 1876.

He was the son of Elisha Sanborn and Agnes (Moore) Sanborn and was the fifth in a family of twelve children, eight boys and four girls, all but one of whom lived to adulthood. At the age of twenty, Benjamin purchased of his father the remaining year of his minority and struck out for himself. On Oct. 26, 1830 he was married to Miss Abigail B. Stanton, daughter of Isaac W. Stanton of North Danville. At the age of 32, having accumulated \$1000, Benjamin bought the farm in Lyndon which

later became very productive and valuable. In 1866 he sold 150 acres of this farm to the Connecticut and Passumpsic Rivers Railway Company on which to locate its general offices and railroad shops, reserving about 40 acres of meadow land, which later became the home place of his son, Isaac W. Sanborn. A daughter of Sanborn's, Martha, married Dr. J. W. Copeland of Lyndonville. Sanborn died "like a shock of corn fully ripe," after a brief illness in his 78th year.

*(Child's Gazetteer of Caledonia and Essex Counties, town of Lyndon)*

DR. JAMES D. FOLSOM, born Wheelock July 3, 1828; died St. Johnsbury June 17, 1907.

He was the son of James Folsom of Exeter, N. H. and Lucy (Sanborn) Folsom of Sanbornton, N. H. He was educated in the common schools of Wheelock and Lyndon Academy. He studied medicine with Dr. Selim Newell and Dr. Benaiah Sanborn, later taking two courses of lectures at Woodstock Medical School and a course of lectures at Dartmouth College Medical Department, where he received his M.D. degree in 1849. He took postgraduate study at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pa. He first practiced (1849) in Lyndon, later in Guildhall, and from 1852-1872 in Lancaster, N. H. He married Flora Newell of East Burke Jan. 6, 1850 and they had five children, Lelia, Frank, James, Nellie and Flora.

*(Men of Progress, Herndon & Benedict, p. 14)*

FERDINAND W. CHASE, born in Wheelock Mar. 17, 1840, the son of William and Harriet (Randall) Chase. He was a direct descendant of Benjamin Carter and Col. John Chase, early settlers in Wheelock Hollow. Although he paid his commutation when drafted Aug. 12, 1863, he saw something of the War of the Union by way of service with the Sanitary Commission, and travelled extensively in the South after the fighting had ceased.

After the war years, he clerked in a store, worked in a railroad office, and finally established a hotel at Loon Lake, N. Y. This became a very successful enterprise and afforded him the means to further his

interests in the history of his native town. His gifts to the town of Wheelock included the soldiers' monument; the kiosk over the mineral spring; the grindstone monuments to soldiers of the Revolution and War of 1812; and 25 historical markers throughout the township.

His first wife was Delphine B. Nelson, daughter of Orin Nelson of Wheelock, whom he married Nov. 15, 1866. His second wife was Mary Howe, daughter of George P. Howe of Jericho, Vt. He died at Loon Lake, N. Y. in 1917.

LORENZO SULLOWAY, JR., born in Wheelock July 17, 1839, was the son of Lorenzo and Sabra (Campbell) Sulloway. He was educated in the common school and then for several years was a travelling salesman for an evaporator manufacturer. On returning to Wheelock, he was a partner in the store of B. F. Taylor from 1870-1873. From 1868-1878 he was deputy sheriff of Caledonia County. On being elected County Sheriff in 1878, he moved to St. Johnsbury where he also served as overseer of the poor for six years. He held the office of County Sheriff for over a quarter of a century. On Nov. 2, 1871 he married Lizzie Ranney of Wheelock and they had one son, Ralph C. Sulloway, who at one time was a reporter for the St. Johnsbury Caledonian.

(*Successful Vermonters*. Jeffrey p. 60)

JUDGE WILLIAM H. TAYLOR, born in Wheelock July 18, 1863, was the eldest son of Benjamin F. and Amanda (Stetson) Taylor. His great grandfather, Jonathan Taylor, was a captain of a trading vessel and came from Scotland to Canterbury, N. H. His grandfather, Jonathan Taylor, came from there to Wheelock in 1790. Here Benjamin F. Taylor was born in 1831. His son, William, was educated in the common schools of Wheelock and prepared for college at Hardwick Academy. In the fall of 1883 he entered the sophomore class at Dartmouth College and graduated in 1886. In the fall of the same year he became principal of Hardwick Academy and remained such for three years.

In 1887 he married Nettie L. Clark of Hardwick and they had four children: Harold F., Florence M., Mildred I., and Celia A.

In 1889 he was appointed Caledonia County Supervisor of Schools and later became Examiner of Teachers for the county. Twice the governor appointed him to help revise the school laws of the state.

He studied law at the offices of Ide & Stafford in St. Johnsbury and was admitted to the Vermont bar in 1892. In 1893 he again took over the duties as principal of Hardwick Academy, continuing his law practice at the same time. In 1895 he formed a partnership with Walter A. Dutton of Walden, Vt., which became known as Taylor & Dutton. He was State's Attorney for two terms, 1894-1898 and was town representative for Hardwick in 1900. In 1906 he was Caledonia County Senator.

In 1906 he was chosen Superior Judge and served in this capacity until 1913, when he became an Associate Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court, holding this high position until his death.

He was a member of Caspian Lodge 87 F. & A. M.; Hiram Chapter No. 29 R. A. M.; and Lamoille Commandery.

Judge Taylor died in Hardwick Mar. 3, 1926.

(*Encyclopedia of Vermont Biography*, Prentice Dodge, p. 90, *Carleton's Genealogical & Family History of Vt.*, p. 279 in Vol. II, *Successful Vermonters*, Jeffrey, p. 349)

FRANK F. TAYLOR, born in Wheelock Dec. 20, 1864, was the son of B. F. Taylor and Amanda (Stetson) Taylor. His father, when about 21 years old, bought the general store in Wheelock village, first started by Erastus Fairbanks and later run by Ward Bradley for over thirty years. Here Mr. Taylor carried on the store and served as postmaster for the village until his retirement in 1901. It was this store that proved an early training ground for both Frank and his brothers. Judge William Taylor recalled with affection the good times the brothers and other village boys had playing in its attic on rainy days. (*Speech at the dedication of the soldiers' monument 1915*). Frank attended the District No. 4 school and, later, Hardwick Academy, before graduating from Lyndon Institute in 1885. He started work as clerk in the Fairbanks Store in St. Johnsbury and after about a year and a half took a similar job at the J. H. McLoud Store in Hardwick. He finally rose to the position of treasurer and business manager there. He was one of the organizers of the Granite Trust Co., of which he became a vice-president. His sisters were Jennie and Abigail and there was another brother, Fred.

His first wife was Flora M. Rogers, daughter of Charles and Mary (Melvin) Rogers of Wheelock. He was married twice thereafter.



OZIAS DANFORTH MATHEWSON, born in Wheelock March 10, 1864, the son of Epaphras C. and Nancy Earl (Marsh) Mathewson. He attended the village school, afterwards studying at Hardwick and St. Johnsbury Academies and completing his preparation for college at Lyndon Institute. He entered Dartmouth College in 1886 and was graduated therefrom with an A B degree in 1890. In 1893 he received an A M degree from the same institution. Before his graduation from college he taught several terms of district school, his first being at South Wheelock in what later became known as the Old Red Schoolhouse. During the years 1885 to 1888 he served as Superintendent of Wheelock Schools, visiting the schools during his college vacations and sending reports to the town officials on local school conditions.

In 1890 he became principal of Spaulding High School in Barre, Vt., and after 1896 combined this office with Superintendent of Barre Schools until 1912, when he was called to Lyndon Center to become principal of the re-organized Lyndon Institute, at the request of Theodore N. Vail. He held this post until his retirement in 1943.

He was always active in educational affairs of the state. In 1894 he was appointed Examiner of Teachers for Washington County. He was secretary of the Vermont Normal Commission, 1901-1908; president of the Vermont Teachers Association, 1896; in 1901 he was on the executive board of the Vermont School Masters Club; secretary and treasurer of the State Board of Education, 1908 to 1910; chairman of the Vermont Free Public Library Commission, 1937 to 1944; president of Lyndon Institute Trustees, 1931 to 1944. As stated in *The Vermonter* for 1901, p. 234, "In scholarly attainment, in wise administration and efficient service, he stands in the front rank of Vermont schoolmasters."

Recognition of these qualities was made by his Alma Mater and various Vermont universities, when awarding him honorary degrees. Middlebury presented him with a Doctorate in Pedagogy in 1933; Norwich, an honorary LLD. in 1939; and in 1940 the University of Vermont awarded him a Doctorate in Education and Dartmouth presented him with a Doctorate in Pedagogy. Other scholastic honors were memberships in Phi Beta Kappa, Psi Upsilon, and Casque and Gauntlet, while at Dartmouth College.

After making his home in Lyndon, he was active in town affairs, both in political and business capacities. He was president of the Lyndonville Realty Company; president of the Lyndonville Savings and Trust Company; and was devoted to rebuilding the town center after the great fire of the '30's. In 1932-1934 he represented Lyndon in the Legislature and in 1936-1938 was Caledonia County State senator. For two years he was also the Vermont member of the New England Council.

He was a 33rd Degree Mason and Past Commander of St. Aldemar Commandery, Knights Templars.

His first wife was Angie Kelley of Worcester, Vt., whom he married July 1, 1891. She died Sept. 21, 1907.

His second marriage was to Grace Hoyt on June 29, 1909. She was a direct descendant of Barnard Hoyt, a first settler of Wheelock. They had three children, twin girls, Miriam Rachel (Flanagan) and Marion Rosamond (Hebert); and a son, Philip Hoyt Mathewson of Montpelier, Vt.

Ozias D. Mathewson died in Lyndon Center Aug. 12, 1944.

OZORA STEARNS DAVIS was born in Wheelock July 30, 1866, the son of Alexander Warner and Caroline (Burroughs) Davis. His father was a son of Samuel Davis of West Wheelock, who came from Hardwick before Jan. 1, 1850 and lived on the farm originally settled by Samuel Fellows and later lived on by Colwell (Caldwell). His mother was from Glover, and soon after her marriage joined her husband in the South where he was serving with the Union Army. A temporary home was established in Wheelock but after the birth of their son, the young parents moved to Boston. Later they returned to spend some time in Glover and finally settled in White River Junction, Vt., where Ozora Davis spent his boyhood and received his early education in the local schools. He graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy in 1885. He graduated in 1889 from Dartmouth College, where he worked his way through the four year course and also edited the first book of Dartmouth Lyrics. He became principal of the high school in White River Junction from 1889-1891 and then entered Hartford Theological Seminary from which he graduated in 1894. He received his M. A. and Ph. D. degrees from Leipzig University in 1896 and was ordained a minister in the Congregational Church the same year.



On Nov. 17, 1896 he married his childhood sweetheart, Grace Emeline Tinker of White River Junction, and they went to their first parish, the First Congregational Church in Springfield, Vt. After three years, they were called to the Central Congregational Church in Newtonville, Mass., where they remained from 1899 to 1904. In that year Dr. Davis was called to the South Church of New Britain, Conn. In 1909 he was appointed to the presidency of Chicago Theological Seminary and remained in this office until 1930. From 1928 to 1930 he served as moderator of the National Council of Congregational Churches, U. S. A. Failing health forced him to lighten his responsibilities but he accepted the pastorate at the United Church of Hyde Park, Ill. in 1930.

Dr. Davis and his wife had two children, Elizabeth Caroline, born in Newtonville, Mass. in 1904, and Alexander Henry, born in New Britain, Conn. in 1905.

Ozora Stearns Davis died in March 1931.

(*Ozora Stearns Davis, by Grace T. Davis, Pilgrim Press, Boston, 1932, Who's Who in America 1930*)

DR. EDWARD R. LYNCH, born in South Wheelock Sept. 3, 1870, a son of John Lynch, a native of Cork, Ireland who had engaged in farming in South Wheelock for twenty-five years, and of Mary (Cronin) Lynch, a native of the County of Waterford, Ireland. His education was begun in the local school (Mountain, or Magoon, School) and he later attended Waterbury Seminary and graduated from Lyndon Commercial College in 1891. He attended the University of Vermont for a year and for another like period went to classes at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Boston, Mass. This was followed by a course of study at Baltimore Medical College, which awarded him a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1896. He served as an intern for six months at Massachusetts General Hospital and for three months at Union General Hospital in Boston, then took a special course in surgery under Dr. Morris Richardson at Harvard and a special surgery course under Dr. Liebman at Johns Hopkins University. In 1908 he established himself as physician and surgeon in Brattleboro, Vt. and in 1910 founded Melrose Hospital there. After ten years in general practice, he specialized in surgery. In 1921-22 he represented Brattleboro in the State Legislature. His wife, Georgianna Moren of Nova Scotia, whom he

had married June 23, 1899, died in 1914. Their children were Edward Byron Lynch, and George Hamilton, who died Aug. 31, 1925 at the age of 22 years. (*Vermont of Today, Stone p. 300*)

REV. JOHN A. LYNCH born in South Wheelock Aug. 11, 1868, a son of John and Mary Cronin Lynch. Besides his brother, Edward, there was another brother, Lt. William M. of the Boston Fire Dept., and a sister, Mary, who married Charles A. McGovern, only these four children growing to maturity out of eight born to their parents. He attended the Mountain school in South Wheelock while living on the farm and later went to St. Johnsbury schools. He attended Green Mountain Seminary in Waterbury Center, Vt. and later spent five years in Boston in business and study with private tutors. In 1892 he attended the Seminary of Philosophy, Montreal and then St. Mary's Theological Seminary, Baltimore, Md. He was ordained a priest in Burlington, Vt. Aug. 24, 1897. He was at first assistant at the Church of the Nativity, Swanton, and in January 1898 was appointed to assist Rev. M. J. Carmody in the newly established parish in St. Johnsbury. Upon the retirement of Fr. Carmody because of ill health, Fr. Lynch took over his work and helped complete the new St. Aloysius church. At this time he also had charge of St. Lawrence church, Copperfield, Vt. and directed the building of St. Leo's, Lunenburg. (*Successful Vermonters, Jeffrey, p. 76*)

CHARLES CARROLL HUTCHINSON born in South Wheelock July 15, 1852. Dartmouth 1879; rancher and miner in Prescott, Ariz. Died Dec. 12, 1913.

FRANKLIN BOODY NELSON, born in Wheelock. Bates College, 1890. Minister.

ORA SAMUEL GRAY, born in Wheelock. Bates College, minister, evangelist and lecturer.

HARLEY PHILLIPS MATHEWSON, born Dec. 14, 1828; Dartmouth 1863, died Los Angeles, Cal. Aug. 3, 1901.

OSCAR CARTER, physician in Danville and GEORGE AUSTIN CARTER, physician in Hardwick, sons of Dr. A. J. Carter and Mary Leavitt Carter, University of Vermont.

NELSON M. WOOD born Wheelock May 12, 1866, d. Boston, Mar. 17, 1927. Boston University Medical School graduate in 1893. Appointed Professor of Medicine at B. U. School of Medicine in



1904. For 30 years affiliated with the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital, where he was chief physician at the time of his death. He was considered one of the best diagnosticians in that area and was often called into consultation. He lived most of his life in Charlestown, Mass. but made his home in Boston in his later years.

GUY VON ALDRICH, born in Wheelock. Graduated at Lewiston, Me. High School where he was Class Orator, and later from Bates College. A nationally known Secretary of the YMCA in Minneapolis, Minn.

## Chapter XXVIII

# Religious Societies and Their Churches

*Free grace, undying Love; Free grace, undying Love;  
Free grace, undying Love; To ring those charming  
bells.*

### FREEWILL BAPTIST

The Freewill Baptist Denomination was founded in 1780 at Barrington, N. H. by Elder Benjamin Randel (Randall), who had been a convert of the Rev. George Whitefield in 1770. He dissented from the Calvinistic doctrine of election and, with his followers, organized a church which believed in free grace and by it was ordained to the ministry. The denomination soon spread to New Durham, N. H. and other towns in the vicinity.

It was from this section of New Hampshire that many of the early settlers came to Wheelock, and, as would be expected, they mostly favored this new denomination. Elder Joseph Boody of Strafford, N. H. organized the Wheelock society in 1800 and became their first preacher. Nine members of the Wheelock group at first joined the Freewill Baptists from Sheffield, Vt. At the opening meeting on Oct. 6, 1800 the combined congregation numbered 77. In the beginning, the worshipers met in homes of members, among them Ebenezer Chandler, who had come from Canterbury, N. H. and was an ardent churchman. They met in barns, when the number was too great for a house. Soon they held their meetings at the meetinghouse on the County Road.

### WHEELOCK QUARTERLY MEETING

In his *History of Baptists in Vermont*, pp. 608-609, 613-614 and 619, Rev. Henry Crocker describes the founding of the Wheelock Quarterly Meeting:

"July 4, 1802 several brethren from the churches in Hardwick, Sutton, Sheffield and Danville, met at Gideon Leavitt's in Wheelock for conference and organized the Wheelock Quarterly Meeting, an unauthorized organization according to the policy of the day, but later formally approved."

Elder Joseph Boody and Elder Joseph Boody, Jr. were the organizers. (*Historical Sketch of the Vermont Yearly Meeting of Freewill Baptists*, Rev. M. C. Henderson p. 5)

"On Aug. 28, 1802," continues the Rev. Henry Crocker, "a committee from the Yearly Meeting, in the persons of Elder Joseph Boody and Elder Aaron Buzzell (of Strafford, Vt.) met the associated churches at Wheelock and ordained Eliphalet Maxfield and Robinson Smith as evangelists; and Peleg Hicks, a Calvinist Baptist minister, with his two churches, united with the Quarterly Meeting. The Hardwick, now Wheelock Quarterly Meeting then had four ministers, Boody, Maxfield, Smith and Hicks; eight churches, Hardwick, Sutton, Sheffield, Upper Danville, Lower Danville, Cabot and the two Calvinistic Baptist churches (names unknown); and it numbered two hundred and sixty members.

"John Colby (of Sutton), after a long journey westward, spent the rest of the year 1810 in revival meetings in Sutton, Lyndon, Burke and Wheelock, where fifty-one were baptized."

Official action of the Wheelock Quarterly Meeting consisted in gathering in new members and in ordaining as pastors, or Elders, those who qualified. These matters were duly recorded with the Town Clerk, as being the proper one to keep all records, both church and civic, in these frontier towns.

The ordination of Elder Benjamin Page was recorded thus:

State of Vermont, Caledonia County

This certifies that Benjamin Page of Gilmanton, in the County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire, being a regular member of the Church of Christ, called General Provisions or Free will Baptists, has this day been regularly ordained in the town of Cabot in the County of Caledonia and State of Vermont as a pastor





## FIRE WATER AND HOLY WATER

Where the County road crossed the west stream, or South Wheelock Branch, was a favored millsite from the earliest settlement of the township. Here, east of the bridge and on the south side of the stream were erected a sawmill, gristmill and potato whiskey distillery. The last did a brisk business, especially during the War of 1812, when the embargo on West Indies rum made local products in great demand.

On Nov. 18, 1860 Stephen M. Jones entered in his diary: "Rev. Story baptized four at the bridge. It was rainy and snow was some two inches deep." It is hoped that the "six who had been baptized the week before" had had more providential weather. On Sept. 14, 1861 the diary noted: "fixed the pool for baptism" and on the next day, "attended church, also Rev. Story performed a baptism ordinance for me."

## THE MOTHER CHURCH—1828

*Is Vermont such a beauty spot? Or has it passed through the hands of a skillful laundress? Remember, making history is a solemn work; we should do it as unto God. (Dr. Edwin James, Burlington, Iowa in Hemenway's Gazetteer Vol. I p. 258)*

In 1828 the Freewill Baptists of South Wheelock built their first church. A Mr. Edgerton was evidently the master workman. According to an item in the *Farmer's Herald* of St. Johnsbury for July 29, 1828, the Lyndon Corner Congregationalists called him in as a consultant on the plans they were making that spring to build their church. They found him and his assistants "very Agreeable."

Thomas Jefferson Cree is supposed to have first come to this area to assist in the building of churches at South Wheelock, Wheelock Hollow, Sutton, Lyndon Corner and Lyndon Center. As a carpenter and joiner, he made a specialty of pews and interior finish work.

For a description of the first South Wheelock church, built after thirty years of worship in the "old meeting house," we are indebted to Martin E. Daniels, whose paper was read at a church reunion on Aug. 28, 1949:

"As the road system came to be laid out and numerous settlements made, the membership saw that they could afford a more comfortable church building and in a more favorable location. The site finally chosen was one mile south from the old meeting house, at the, then, four corners, on land deeded by Jesse Leavenworth, Jr., 'so long as it was used for church purposes'."

JESSE LEAVENWORTH TO REV. MORRILL  
AND DAVID DARLING

Know All Men By These Presents, that I, Jesse Leavenworth of Wheelock in the County of Caledonia and State of Vermont for and in

consideration of love and goodwill towards the Freewill Baptist Society in Wheelock, I do hereby remise, release, and forever quit-claim unto Rev. Morrill and David Darling and their associates, members of said Society, formed for the purpose of building a Meeting house, and their successors, a certain tract or parcel of land for the purpose of building a Meeting house thereon and for no other purpose, to wit:—

Lying on the north line of Lot No. 68 in South Wheelock, to contain all the land that lies at this time common between the two roads as the paths are now trod, or as passing now is as you come from Wheelock Hollow to the County Road near Nathaniel Brown's house.

To Have and to Hold the aforesaid premises with the appurtenances thereof to them the said Abner and David and their associates and their successors forever, for the purpose aforesaid, so that neither I, the said Jesse, nor any person or persons in my name and behalf shall or will hereafter claim any part, right, or title in or to the premises aforesaid, or any part thereof, but they and every one of them shall be by these presents forever barred and excluded therefrom.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 4th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the presence of Josiah Lane

Jesse Leavenworth (L. S.)

Nathaniel Perry  
State of Vermont)  
Caledonia, ss )  
August 4th 1827)

Personally appeared Jesse Leavenworth signer and sealer of the foregoing instrument and ac-



knowledgeed the same to be his free act and deed  
Before me, Josiah Lane, Justice Peace  
Caledonia Wheelock August 4th 1827, re-  
ceived, recorded and examined

Josiah Lane, Town Clerk  
(*Wheelock Land Records Vol. V p. 154*)

"On this sightly and beautiful spot (site today of the grove of trees behind the Old Red School-house) was erected the first Freewill Baptist church in this whole section, often called the mother church.

"This was a large building, seating 350, or more, and resembled in exterior dimensions the Old North Church at North Danville. The building was 44 by 56 feet. It had several large windows on each side and at the rear, made of many panes, and on the south, a large palladian window. This lighted the choir loft and ceiling of the auditorium. It consisted of one large window and at each side of this a smaller one, while above the larger was a rounded, or arched, window with irregular panes cut to fit the frame. As one came over the hill from the south, this window was strikingly beautiful and gave the building a dignified appearance that made up for the lack of a steeple and bell. The exterior was painted white.

"The floor plan consisted of a large auditorium with high ceiling and an entry at the south, having two inside and two outside doors. The outside doors were wide and heavy. The east door was for the women and the west door for the men. Above the entry was a gallery of the same dimensions. It was reached by a flight of stairs at the east end. The pulpit was a massive structure, consisting of a base about 12 or 14 feet at the bottom and tapering to the top, which might have been 8 by 10 feet. This platform was wide enough to accommodate the present divan of this church (present South Wheelock church built in 1884).

"I think the platform was enclosed at the sides and that there was a small door connecting with the extended sides of the desk. The desk was of large size, fitted with wings extending across the entire front. On the desk rested the Bible, while underneath was a large stool upon which the minister knelt when in prayer. The pulpit was 'grained' a peculiar yellowish brown.

"The heating arrangement consisted of two large box stoves, with long pipes extending the full length of the church. The pipes then turned at right angles, entered a much larger pipe, and that passed upward to a chimney in the attic. This could not possibly have produced heat enough to

have had any effect on the temperature of the pews, boxed in as they were, hence much suffering from cold must have been experienced.

"The box pews had doors, held fast by buttons on the outside. The pews were nearly four feet high and without cushions, except in one or two instances. Their backs were straight and not conducive to sleep, though, doubtless, some embraced the opportunity in spite of the discomfort. The upper panel of the pew doors was painted a pea-green, upon which was inscribed in black the pew number.

"Within my memory, the choir consisted of William Hart, chorister; Mrs. Edward Williams, Lauristine Heath Chandler and, sometimes, Delia Emerson, organists; while the singers were William Bean, Aaron Chandler, Delia Emerson and Laraine Porter Gray. One beautiful summer noon, when the sun was shining in at the open door and all outside was so beautiful, the choir practice began before I had gotten away. They sang 'The Beautiful Valley of Eden' and I remember thinking that "the beautiful home of the soul" could scarcely be more beautiful than our Vermont hillside on that glorious summer day.

"I remember my first day at Sunday School, with Delia Emerson, teacher. The time had come when those in charge attempted to make the Sunday School more attractive, with lesson sheets provided, on which were printed the lesson story and the golden text. Earlier, it was the catechism with questions and answers. The only ones I remember being in the class were Charles and Fred Wark and Arthur Wheeler. This was about 1879. We also learned Bible verses, an exercise participated in by the whole school. The superintendent gave out a word and we were to learn a verse containing this word. I remember one of the verses I learned containing the word 'star' was from a chapter in Revelations. 'I, Jesus, have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star.' I little knew what this meant but I liked the cadence of it and I knew the morning star was beautiful.

"In the early days of the old church, the attendance was excellent but it had lessened much ere I was old enough to attend. It is remembered that at one quarterly meeting the attendance was so large that there were as many people outside the church as within. A window was removed and the minister

stood in the open window frame to deliver his message."

To encourage a resident minister for the Mother Church, the house across the road was purchased for a parsonage in 1855. It was later sold to Mrs. Emma Hutchinson.

### SUNDAY BEST

The girls from the Peter Cofran family walked to the Old Church for the morning and afternoon meetings each Sunday. They took the road from their home to the Joseph Hoyt farm (later L. J. Wooley's); then down to the William Hart place, and thence by the road that came out just below the Baptist Parsonage. They were careful to carry their shoes all the way. Just before reaching the church, they stopped for shoeing.

It was necessary for families who came a distance to bring a lunch. Between services all ate their lunches and visited. One old lady, very deaf, always brought cheese as her lunch. One day, after the eating was over and the visiting began, someone approached her to ask after her health.

"Haint got a mite," she said, "it's all gone."  
(as told by Mrs. Daniel Gilman)

### SABBATH SCHOOL, SOUTH WHELOCK

Organized May 7, 1865

#### MEMBERS OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL BOARD

S. M. Jones, Superintendent  
S. O. Elkins, Asst. Superintendent  
John Cofran, Treasurer and Clerk  
E. M. Magoon, Librarian

Mrs. Sarah Porter's Class  
asst., Mary Rogers

1. Carrie Rogers
2. Jennie Darling
3. Orlana Porter
5. Mary Pinkham
4. Amy Porter
6. Lilla Day
7. . . . Hubbard
8. Mary Patterson

Mrs. James French's Class  
asst., Mrs. Horace Darling

1. Mary Chandler
2. Samantha Darling
3. Mrs. Daniel Wheeler
4. Lorestine Heath
5. Mrs. Frank Noyes
6. Miss Kendrick
7. Miss . . . Kendrick
8. Jane Coffran
9. . . . Weeks
10. Mathilda Miles
11. . . . Weeks

Mrs. Sanford Gray's Class  
asst., N. Pinkham

1. Harriet Magoon
2. Hannah Jones
3. Almira Sherburn
4. Eliza Bean
5. Mary Porter
6. Amy Coffran
7. Emma Odiorne
8. Emma Emerson
9. Mary Emerson
10. Adaline Daniels
11. Arris Blodgett
12. Francesca Ayer
13. Elvira Clement
14. Emma Goss

Mrs. Porter Magoon's Class  
asst., Mrs. George Sherburn

1. Ellen French
2. . . . Sherburn
3. Emma Shepherd
4. Susan Rogers
5. Lilla Odiorne

6. Abby Wheeler
7. Clara Bean
8. Martha Goss
9. L. Bean

Mrs. Samuel Willey's Class  
asst., Mrs. Benjamin Bean

1. Mrs. Horace Darling
2. Mrs. Pinkham
3. Mrs. Mary Rogers
4. Mrs. Mary Smith
5. Mrs. Sarah Hubbard
6. Mrs. William Patterson
7. Mrs. Benjamin Bean
8. Mrs. Joseph Miles
9. Mrs. Daniel Wheeler

Mr. Samuel Daniel's Class  
asst., George Pinkham

1. Andrew Heath
  2. George Pinkham
  3. Horace Magoon
  4. Horace Darling
  5. Stephen Elkins
  6. Danforth Leslie
  7. William Aldrich
  8. Benjamin Bean
  9. William Bean
  10. Alden B. Hoyt
- Mr. Moltus Hubbard's Class  
asst., Horace Darling
1. Charles Hutchinson
  2. Albert Bean
  3. Samuel Jones
  4. George Jones
  5. John Chandler
  6. David Hannett
  7. George Hoyt
  8. William Goss
  9. George Beedie
  10. Alanson Miles

Horace Magoon's Class  
asst., William Aldrich

1. B. A. Miles
  2. Charles Noyes
  3. Frank Hubbard
  4. Simon Wheeler
  5. Philip Goss
  6. Aaron Chandler
  7. Joseph Coffran
  8. Eugene Clement
- Mr. David Bean's Class  
asst., Benjamin Bean
1. Russell Bean
  2. Nat Chandler
  3. William Bean
  4. George Daniels
  5. Wilbur Sherburn
  6. Lorenzo Miles
  7. Warren Noyes
  8. Smith Emerson
  9. George Noyes
  10. Charles Darling
  11. George Goss

William B. Jones's Class  
asst., . . . . .

1. Mrs. Nancy Coffran
2. Mrs. Alvira Daniels
3. Mrs. Polly Sherburn
4. Mrs. Nancy Elkins
5. Mrs. Nancy Bean

### SUPERINTENDENT'S FINANCIAL ACCOUNT FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

To 1 Doz singing books		To 40 Copies Childs World	
	\$3.30		\$9.60
To 8 singing books		To Postage on Childs	
at .11	.88	World	.96
To 10 account books	.80	To 6 singing books	1.80
To 18 cards	.27	To 6 singing books	1.50
To 2 Packages cards	.70	To Postage	.14
To Card, tickets &		To Postage on letters	.36
Papers	2.00		

### MINISTERS

Ministers connected with the early meetings of the Freewill Baptists at the Old Meeting House and the Mother Church, South Wheelock included: Elder Benjamin Page, who was ordained in 1803 and preached from 1815-1818, after which he removed to Ogden, N. Y.

Samuel Gilman	1821
Jonathan Nelson	1827-1832
Shubel Boston	1830-1841
Horatio W. Harris	1842-1843
John Davis	1843-1846



J. E. Flanders	1847-1849
George King	1849-1850
John Garfield	1851-1854
William Merrill	1855-1858
Horace Storey	1860-1865
Seth Perkins	1866-1868
Frederick L. Willey	1869-1870
J. B. Whitney	1870-1871
Benjamin S. Moody	1871-1874
Simeon Bolles	1874-1876
Lucian G. Clark	1878

Rufus J. Russell

1884-1887

## DEVILISH HOLY

"We had one Elder Harris for a preacher some years ago, who at yearly meeting got so much warmed up over the question of reclaiming the 'Hindoos' that he shouted he, too, longed to go to preach the Gospel to those poor benighted heathen in that far distant land where human hoofs had never, never pressed the soil" . . . *Ferd Chase*

THE SECOND CHURCH, SOUTH WHEELOCK  
1884

*The old order changeth, yielding place to new  
And God fulfills himself in many ways . . .  
Tennyson, Idyls of The King*

The origin and location of the present church in South Wheelock is explained by Martin E. Daniels in his paper at the church reunion of August 1949.

"Owing to the large size of the old church and its inability to be heated, there began to be an agitation for a new and smaller church and one more accessible to the greater number of attendants. This was especially true in the time of Elder Russell. He became convinced that something should be done along this line and headed up those who believed with him. Moses Chandler offered to give the site, if the church could be located at the four corners near Deacon Cofran's home, and the site was so chosen.

"Some families in the Mountain District dissented, among them were the Sherburn families, David, Erastus and George, and they never attended a service in the new church. No one could blame them for disliking to lose the old church, but it was said that they scarcely ever attended church in the old building, so their argument against the removal carried less weight.

"I was not present in the early summer morning when work of tearing down the old church began, but was there soon afterward. I remember how fine the timbers looked as they came into view. They were hewn with great accuracy and almost as smooth as if planed. Though my mother (granddaughter of Jacob Foss) was one who voted for its removal, I remember how she bemoaned the passing of the old church, the church of her forefathers, from our home.

"Before this, a subscription paper had been passed around and the more well-to-do subscribed at



SOUTH WHEELOCK CHURCH



\$100 each and promised work besides. Since few ever earned more than a dollar a day and board, the \$100 represented a very real sacrifice.

"The leaders of that time were Moses, Thomas and Albert Chandler, Deacon John Cofran, Ferdinand Darling, William Bean, William Hart, Andrew Heath, Frank Noyes and Abram Daniels. Natt Chandler also did a great deal of work on the church.

"I remember, when the batten boards had been set up and the lines drawn, that Thomas Chandler, we called him 'Tom,' seized his spade and, thrusting it into the greensward, said,

" 'We might as well begin, boys, so let's begin here.' He then threw out the first spadeful of earth.

"This was in the summer of 1884. John Sanborn was the head carpenter. The people worked with a will and the church neared completion as the year wore on. The pews for this church came from the Lyndon Center Church. The pulpit was made and presented by Stephen G. Cree. All the women came together to shorten and recover the cushions. I remember my mother was one of the workers. At this time the church had 38 members.

"Justin Heath has recently ascertained that there have been at least 96 homes in South Wheelock south of Fall Brook. Most of these are now cellar holes, there being but 23 houses in this area at present (1949). Such a decrease in population makes it impossible to conduct church service regularly.

"This church has an endowment contributed by Laurestine Heath Chandler, James Rollins, Samantha Darling Weeks, Austin Bean, Moses Chandler, Thomas Chandler and one other whose name I do not know.

"I think that after 1887 we rarely, if ever, had a full time pastor, but shared with Wheelock Village church. Fred M. Bucker was our first college man, the father of twin boys that became celebrated missionaries. I remember his sermons were much appreciated. Then there were Rev. John Nelson, serving also at the Hollow, and Sidelinger, Johnson, Lyster, and, much later, Jacques. Most of the latter were occasional ministers."

### WHEELOCK HOLLOW CHURCH

It is supposed that prior to 1828, the residents of the Hollow attended services in the old meeting house, as described by T. Jefferson Cree. When the Freewill Baptists erected a new church in the Jones Neighborhood of South Wheelock in 1828, the resi-



WHEELOCK HOLLOW CHURCH

dents in the village desired to build one in their vicinity, too.

Across the front end of the original Hollow church was a long entry, with doors opening into the auditorium. At each end of the entry were stairs leading into the gallery over it. The gallery was occupied by the choir. On the ground floor, and in front of the gallery, was the pulpit, which stood on four columns, five, or six, feet above the floor, and was entered by a short flight of stairs. The congregation faced the pulpit. The pews, with doors, were of unpainted pine. (O. D. M.)

With characteristic zeal, the village worshipers must have first built the church, just south of where the soldiers' monument now stands, and then sought



a deed to the land from its owner, Ward Bradley. The deed states:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that I, Ward Bradley, of Wheelock, County of Caledonia and State of Vermont, in consideration of the sum of ten dollars received to my full satisfaction of Philip Mathewson, Sewall Bradley and Theophilus Folsom of Wheelock aforesaid, committee appointed to superintend the erection and completion of the meeting house at Wheelock Hollow, the receipt of which I do hereby acknowledge, have and do freely remise release and forever quit claim unto said Philip Mathewson, Sewall Bradley and Theophilus Folsom, and unto their successors in office forever, all my rights, title, interest or demand in or unto a certain piece of land described as follows: to wit: viz: being that part of Lot No. 26 in said town whereon the Meetinghouse now stands, together with sixteen feet north of said house and far enough east and west to be convenient and necessary to build sheds to accommodate said Meetinghouse, to have and to hold the above granted and bargained premises, with the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to said Philip Mathewson, Sewall Bradley and Theophilus Folsom and to their successors in office and for the use, convenience and benefit of said Meetinghouse and said sheds forever. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 20th day of October A. D. 1829.

SIGNED, SEALED and DELIVERED

in the Presence of

Furber Goodwin

Moses Davis

Ward Bradley

deed acknowledged before Moses Davis, J. P.

It was about this time, according to Rev. M. C. Henderson's account (*p. 10-11 Historical Sketch of Vermont Yearly Conference of Freewill Baptists*) that "Rev. Jonathan Woodman (of Wheelock) and others withdrew from the Denomination, being grieved for certain irregularities in the body (pertaining to methods of worship, qualifications of ministers, etc.) and commenced at once to establish a new connection. This movement was confined mostly, if not exclusively, within the limits of the Wheelock Quarterly Conference. Many followed their example and were organized into separate churches, known as General Baptists."

#### WELL AGREED TO WALK TOGETHER

It was under this influence that on January 8, 1831 a meeting was called "at the meeting house at Wheelock Hollow for the purpose of considering on

the subject of church building and discipline." The meeting adjourned, without taking action, to February 12, 1831. Under that date these proceedings were recorded:

Met agreeably to appointment. Opened meeting by prayer and proceeded to business.

After looking into the propriety of organizing a church, proceeded to the examination of members and the following were found to be in good union and well agreed to walk together, viz:

Deacon S. Morgan, Peter Woodman, Orrin Nelson, Mary Chase, Mariah Carter, Harriet Bradley, Josiah Dow.

2nd. Took under consideration certain church rules presented by Elder Woodman and, after examining their principles, agreed to adopt them as a concise summary of our faith founded upon the Bible.

3rd. The above named brothers and sisters, except Brother Dow, were organized into a church, right hand of fellowship given by Elder Woodman.

4th. Appointed Brother Peter Woodman to serve as clerk.

5th. Appointed our monthly meeting to be two weeks from today.

Stephen Morgan and Peter Woodman were appointed the first deacons of the new General Baptist church.

A part of the churches, however, being so thoroughly established in their denominational relations, were not prevailed upon to change for something new. So in 1832, wrote the Rev. M. C. Henderson, the General Conference appealed to Rev. Jonathan Woodman to bring his churches back into the fold, provided the changes he thought advisable in methods of procedure were adopted. He complied and his parishioners and those of other churches he had led in the time of dissention eventually came back into the General Conference of Freewill Baptists. The Wheelock Hollow General Baptists voted to return to the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings in 1839.

On February 25, 1832 Elder Daniel Jackson was received as pastor of the Hollow church, probably the first resident minister in the village. Previous to this, it is supposed that the church was under the care of Elder Jonathan Woodman, then pastor of the Sutton Baptist church.

The church enjoyed a steady growth for many years and maintained church services with regularity. It was the only organized religious society in the north part of town at that time.

During the first year there were added to the membership John Fuller, Lovina Fuller, Martha Woodman, Anna Morgan, Samuel Silver, James Allen, Jonathan Nelson, Jr., Hannah Nelson, Abigail Nelson, Betsey Nelson, Deborah Allen, Sally Darling, Ruth Hoyt, Hannah Curtis and Eliza Bradley.

In those early days, the gallery was well filled with young and old who could sing, or thought they could sing. The choir took its pitch from the tuning fork, first struck by the chorister who loudly hummed the proper note for beginning the hymn. Musical instruments were then thought to be inventions of the devil. In later years, however, a melodeon, and then an organ were allowed in church and, rarely, a violin was used to augment the choir.

In 1880 land for a church and the common was deeded by Judge T. J. Cree and the church moved to its present site and remodelled inside and out. It seems that the same method was used as earlier, first build the church and then get title to the land on which it stands.

T. J. Cree to Meetinghouse Committee  
and the Public

September 18, 1880

"It being about one fourth of an acre of land on which the Meeting House now stands on Lot No. 26 in Wheelock, bounded as follows: On the west by the Town House lot, on the north by the highway, on the east by the School house, on the south by the Main Street; the north line of the said Main Street is ten feet south of the Town House and ten feet south of the Meeting House."

(Same deed contains a description of the land lying in front of the above mentioned buildings for use as a "Public Common or Park.")

State of Vermont )  
Caledonia County, ss)

At Wheelock this 18th day of Sept. 1880  
Thomas Jefferson Cree personally appeared and acknowledged this instrument by him sealed and subscribed to be his free act and deed.

Before me, Stephen G. Cree

Notary Public

Town Clerk's Office, Wheelock, Sept. 20th, 1880. Received for record at 10 o'clock A. M. and recorded the instrument of which the foregoing is a true record

Attest: Charles Rogers, Town Clerk  
(*Wheelock Land Records Book 15, p. 371*)

Remodelling of the church at its new site forced the choir to come down from the former gallery and

occupy the pews at the rear of the auditorium. During the singing of the hymns, the congregation turned its back on the minister and faced the choir. Members of the choir, remembered from the boyhood of O. D. Mathweson, were Amy Bradley, Phila Ingalls, Sophia Welch, Clara Stiles and William Morgan. Stephen G. Cree played the violin in church for several years. George Giffin was chorister for forty years, also Superintendent of the Sunday School.

"Once a month," recalled O. D. M., "we used to have a Praise Service, when everyone was expected to repeat a verse of scripture containing the word, PRAISE. Aunt Chloe Campbell, for good measure, usually recited a whole Psalm. Aunt Chloe was one of the best known characters in the village. She lived with her sister, Mrs. Ren Sulloway. Aunt Chloe used to sit in her chamber tatting and crooning to herself chapters from the big family Bible spread out in the chair before her. Every Sunday morning, after the services were well underway, she came creeping in and seated herself in a big arm chair near the door. Sometimes, she taught a class of women in Sunday School."

The chief social diversion of those days was the so-called "Sociables." Every two weeks, or so, during the winter the people met at different homes. The old folks went in the afternoon, while the younger ones began to appear right after supper. It was a common remark that some rather elderly people regained their youth and enjoyed Needle's Eye, Going to Jerusalem, and Post Office as much as did the boys and girls.

Since a Methodist Society had been formed in Wheelock some years before, it shared the church, after it had been moved to its present site. Baptists and Methodists conducted the worship service on alternate Sundays.

Each winter the Baptists and Methodists had donations for their respective ministers and societies. It usually took the form of an oyster supper, supplemented with an abundance of other good things to eat. There was keen rivalry to see which society provided the more bountiful supper and received the larger contribution for the support of its minister. The contribution included money and various kinds of farm produce.



MINISTERS

Among the ministers serving the Wheelock Hollow Baptist church were:		Rev. James C. Nelson	1888-1889
Elder Daniel Jackson	1832-1834	Rev. F. M. Buker	1891-1893
Elder Jonathan Nelson	1836-1841	Rev. E. J. Bodman	1893-1895
Elder Shubel Boston	1841	Rev. T. E. A. Morrill	1896-1897
Elder John Davis	1842	Rev. E. Judson Hatch	1897-1898
Elder Jonathan Nelson	1843-1854	Rev. John Vance	1898-1900
Elder Jonathan Woodman	1854-1866	Rev. F. S. Sargent	1901-1904
Rev. Seth Perkins	1866	Rev. L. W. Pease	1904-1907
Rev. A. W. Robinson	1867	Rev. N. M. Mayall	1907-1908
Rev. F. L. Wiley	1869	Rev. F. S. Sargent	1908-1909
Rev. Benjamin S. Moody	1870-1871	Rev. E. E. Phillips	1909-1912
Rev. Horace Stiles	1871-1874	Rev. J. D. Waldron	1912-1913
Rev. Moses C. Henderson	1875-1879	Rev. J. B. Stewart (supply from Sheffield)	1922
Rev. Mark Atwood	1879-1883	Rev. L. E. Hall	1922-1926
Rev. Benjamin S. Moody	1885	Rev. J. P. Roach (supply from Sheffield)	1926-1928
Rev. Joseph R. Franklin	1886-1888		

A STARTLING EVENT

It is told of Elder Jonathan Nelson that he was breaking a young colt to the saddle, as in those days nearly all went on horseback, owing to the conditions of the roads. He sent one Jesse Mosher to hide behind the gate post, then jump out and shout, "Boo," to see if the horse shied. Result was: the colt threw the Elder in the dirt, who, on regaining his feet, said, "Jesse, that was most too large a 'Boo' for so small a colt."

WEST WHEELOCK FREEWILL BAPTIST SOCIETY

In 1865 the Goshen Gore and West Wheelock residents established a Freewill Baptist Society and entered the Wheelock Quarterly Meeting in that year. After Goshen Gore changed its name to Stannard, in honor of General Stannard, the society became known in 1870 as the Stannard-West Wheelock church. (*Rev. Henry Crocker, pp. 614 and 631 in History of the Baptists in Vermont*)

MINISTERS

Rev. Horace Stiles 1880

EXPERIENCED

Over-the-mountain at one time a huge Religious Wave enveloped the Flag District. Meetings were held each night, either at the dwellings or

schoolhouse. Nearly all became converted. One night Samuel Davis rose to talk of his "Experience." At this, old Jerry Gray started to leave the room. Seeing this, Davis exclaimed, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth." Old Jerry turned around and Davis shouted, "And the righteous are as bold as sheep."

Replied Jerry, "Sam Davis, I enjoy hearing you tell a lie in court, but I won't listen to you talking in meeting."

CONGREGATIONAL

Those who preferred the Congregational denomination had not been deprived of a place of worship in early Wheelock, according to an article on Erastus Fairbanks written by his son-in-law, Rev. C. L. Goodell of New Britain, Conn., for the Congregational Quarterly of January 1867 (quoted in

the booklet *Erastus Fairbanks* in the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum).

Mr. Fairbanks is quoted as saying about his stay in Wheelock, "our spiritual privileges there were few. It was seldom that we were favored with evangelical preaching. During my residence, I maintained for the greater part of the time a religious meeting on the Sabbath, first in a private room, and afterwards in the school house, usually reading sermons and conducting other appropriate services, being sometimes assisted by one or two of the brethren."

Young Mr. Fairbanks felt his responsibility even more keenly as it was while in Wheelock that "under enlightened convictions of individual duty and privilege (he) became a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ and was admitted to membership in the Congregational Church in March 1814."

(*Biographical Encyclopedia of Vermont in the 19th Century*, p. 93)

A further heightening of the picture was supplied by Zelotes Hosmer, clerk in the Clark, Fairbanks & Co. Store and later a clerk and merchant in Boston:

"When I went to Wheelock in 1816, I found him sustaining a meeting on the Sabbath, there being no other in that part of town. The only aid he had was from two brethren, both quite illiterate. One was a venerable man, who must have passed his three score and ten, who used to walk some three miles supported by a cane as tall as himself.

"He was usually called upon to offer the long prayer and it was literally long, considerably exceeding the sermon in length. It was the same from January to December, and I had it learned so completely that I could repeat it from beginning to end and I have never heard a prayer since which more interested my feelings. I mention these facts to show that the whole support of the meeting rested on Mr. Fairbanks, then a young man of probably not twenty-five years of age."

Interest in the religious life of Wheelock persisted with Mr. Fairbanks long after, as shown in these letters to T. Jefferson Cree (*Cree Family Papers*)

St. Johnsbury Dec. 29, 1853

T. J. Cree, Esq.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 27th will be held for consideration on the return of one of our partners now absent. We have done something heretofore in aid of small churches and societies who were unable to raise the salary of

the ministers and I have no doubt that we shall be willing to do the same when you obtain a minister. Will write you again.

I notice you propose, in case we assist the society in Wheelock, that "some suitable public acknowledgement will be made." I beg you to understand that any such public notice will be most undesirable to us.

You speak of surveying a route for a R R up Millers Run & via Glover to Barton. Should you find the route tolerable please ascertain how far the right of way will be given without charge.

Truly yours,

Erastus Fairbanks

#### THE HOLLOW BELL

St. Johnsbury July 11, 1853

Hon. T. J. Cree

Dear Sir: You are at liberty to draw on us for Twenty-five dollars towards the subscription for a bell and we shall be pleased to know that you succeed in your enterprise.

If you procure the labours of a Congregational minister as you expect, you may regard us as obligated to pay Fifty dollars a year for five years, or a proportionate sum if you hire a minister but part of the time.

The little we do in this way is done from a sense of duty and you will oblige us by avoiding giving publicity to it in the way you speak of.

Should you purchase a bell we would recommend Andrew Meneeley's Sons of West Troy, N. Y. as the best makers.

Truly yours,

E. & T. Fairbanks & Co.

The bell was ordered as suggested and shipped April 30, 1859, according to a letter from the bell foundry to T. J. Cree:

We have this day forwarded to your address by R. R. via Springfield, White River Jct. and St. Johnsbury to Lyndon depot a bell of 607 lbs., key of C, and complete mountings for same. We think the tone and appearance of the bell will give you entire satisfaction and compare favorably with the 1000 lb. bell at Lyndon Center to which you allude.

The bell cost 30 cents a pound, making a total cost, with the mountings, equal to \$214.10.

#### MINISTERS

Congregational ministers who served in Wheelock included Elder Nuslin in 1851 and Thomas Kidder in 1852, according to records among the Cree Family Papers.



## METHODIST

A Methodist Society was set up in Wheelock Hollow in 1838, when J. B. H. Norris conducted worship services. The meetings were first held in private homes, but after the Freewill Baptist church was moved to its present site and remodelled in 1872, both societies occupied the same building, holding a worship service on alternate Sundays.

Other ministers identified with the Wheelock Methodists were:

1866 R. H. Barton  
1869 M. McDonald  
1870 C. D. Ingraham  
1872 O. F. Jenkins  
1873 R. Pretty  
1875 J. H. Winslow  
1877 S. Brigham

1880 Daniel Lewis  
1883 Barrows  
1884-87 J. P. Chase  
1887-91 Robert J. Christie  
1891 J. S. Allen  
1919 F. O. Aldridge

## ADVENTIST

An Adventist preacher was N. A. Hollis in Wheelock 1853-1854.

## CHURCH CHOIRS

(by O. D. Mathewson)

Of all the cantankerous groups to deal with, there is none that can compare with a choir in a country meetinghouse. This is a pretty strong statement, but it is worthy of acceptance, as anyone who has had experience with choirs will testify. Many a church organization has divided over its choir. In fact, one of the evidences of real religion in a congregation is its survival in spite of discord in the choir.

In most of the old meeting houses, the choir sat in a gallery back of the high pulpit. The gallery was so low that a tall man could hardly stand up straight. In the gallery were three or four rows of settees, or pews, and at the front was a balustrade some two feet high.

At first, there were no musical instruments to fill in the weak places in the choir's singing, or help carry the tune. The chorister used a tuning fork, which he struck gently on the back of the pew. Then, holding the vibrating fork to his ear, he looked very sober and thoughtful and began to hum softly until he found the right note. Then he gave the pitch. This was caught up by the choir and all burst into singing:

Blest is the man who shows the place  
Where sinners love to meet;  
Who fears to tread their wicked ways  
And hates the scoffer's seat.

After many years of pitch-pipe and lined hymns, someone was brave enough to suggest the use of a melodeon. This was regarded with horror by many but it soon came into quite general use and favor. Some were still dissatisfied and thought it would be fine to have a violin to assist the choir. This suggestion was greeted with violent protests. "Fiddles," used for the Saturday night dances, were considered by the pious to be the invention of Satan.

In time, and in spite of every protest, the fiddle, or "violin" as it came to be called when used in church, carried the day.

Musical instruments were a help to the chorister and to most of the choir. Sometimes they showed how much a singer was off key. This caused much embarrassment to the guilty one and, in some cases, secret satisfaction to other members of the choir, who had known for years that the leading soprano was always flat. Then it developed that she could not tell one note from another, and she confessed frankly that she got the pitch and followed the notes up and down the score. The news spread at the next "sociable" that Amy Smith couldn't read a note. Deacon Joseph Johnson, who owned the "couldn't sing morna yoked hog," thought it pretty "cheeky" for Amy to keep right on "singin' 'n' flattin'." Most of the congregation, however, realized that Amy was naturally musical and the main stay of the choir, so they began to show her more attention than ever.

No one was paid for singing in the choir or serving as chorister. No one knows who led the choir in the early days, for the records are silent. The most remarkable choir leader in the Wheelock Hollow church was George Giffin. He rarely missed a Sunday; weather had no terror for him; and he was always on time.

It was an event when the choir changed singing books. This generally followed a winter session of singing school. For many years the same book was used and a variety in words was secured by using Watts Hymns. He was considered by some, "to be almost the inventor of hymns in our language." An edition which was generally used about here was published by D. W. Moulton of Sanbornton, N. H.

in 1828. It was bound in leather and measured  $2\frac{1}{4}$  by  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches and contained 582 pages. This particular edition appeared about the time many meetinghouses were built in this area.

Some of the older folks will remember William Morgan, who sang bass for so many years. He and his old horse, which he hitched to the elm tree at the corner of the town hall, were familiar sights on Sunday mornings.

In the days when services at South Wheelock were held regularly, the choir failed to appear one morning. The minister asked a boy and his sister to sing in its place. They had a boy visiting them who accompanied them to meeting, so the minister courteously included him in the invitation to sing. The girl played the organ loudly and the boys sang. After the service, the minister thanked each member of his inexperienced choir for their excellent singing. He was especially grateful to the visiting boy for his willingness to help. The minister never knew that

the boy had not made a sound . . . just made his mouth go. Some in the congregation knew, however, and had the minister been more observant, he would have seen a woman using her handkerchief a good deal and at least one man trying to conceal a broad grin behind white whiskers.

Some ministers always made a pause in the service and, turning to the choir, would say, "We will now wait upon the choir."

William Bean was a faithful member of the choir at South Wheelock. He had an unusually deep, heavy voice. One Sunday the minister announced that the choir would sing three verses. The hymn had four verses and began with a low note. Bill forgot, or didn't hear, the minister's abbreviation of the hymn. He hit the first word of verse four with full blast. Suddenly he heard the echo of the room, and became aware that he was a soloist. He hastily sat down, but not before the whole congregation had seen him turn a vivid red.



## Chapter XXIX

# Millsites and Water Privileges

*"... to build a proper grist Mill and saw Mill well situated to accommodate the inhabitants" . . . Agreement between John Wheelock and Abraham Morrill Oct. 27, 1788*

Doubtless one of the persuasive arguments used by Abraham Morrill in urging his New Hampshire neighbors to take up land in Wheelock, was the presence of many lively streams and likely water privileges in the new township. Where farmers may have regretted the steepness of some of their lands, men who envisioned wheels turning in industry must have been delighted with what they found here.

The larger streams, Millers Run and Williams River (*South Wheelock Branch*), were first selected as sources of water power. It is considered likely that Col. John Bean and Abraham Morrill built the sawmill "on the north stream near the West road," that is mentioned in their report to Surveyor General Whitelaw in 1794. This would be at the spot in South Wheelock where the county road crossed the Williams River. This millsite is later identified as "sold by Guy to Fifield laying east of the County rd. and south of the mill brook." This appears in the land records when John Bean sold the rest of Lot No. 68 (*millsite excepted*) to John Meigs on May 18, 1802.

The "sawmill on the South stream near the East road," also noted in the above report, is at the outlet of Chandler Pond and Isaac Stanton is credited with being the first to operate a sawmill there in 1795.

That smaller streams were utilized also in those early days is proved by the firmly constructed stone dam high up on Borough Brook, reached by an old road leading west from the former Austin Emerson place. Years later, a pair of millstones was found embedded in the stream below the dam. These led Ferd Chase and O. D. Mathewson to conclude that the dam had first provided power for a gristmill run by Isaac Stanton. In 1858 Noyes had a rake factory at the site, also making mop handles, woodenware, etc., and grinding corn. (*Walling's Map of Caledonia County*) When the millstone was rescued and placed as an historical marker on the County road near where the road leads off to the dam, Mr.

Chase had this information inscribed on the bronze plaque.

The water privilege at South Wheelock was considered a valuable one and the rights, and portions of the rights, changed hands often through the years. Some of the transactions include the following:

Dr. William Guy bought Lot 68 from the College Sept. 10, 1794

Dr. Guy sold to Archaelous Woodman Sept. 12, 1795

A. Woodman sold  $\frac{1}{4}$  of saw mill standing to Abner Hoyt Sept. 12, 1795

A. Woodman sold  $\frac{1}{4}$  of saw mill standing to John Boynton June 18, 1799

Abner Hoyt sold  $\frac{1}{4}$  of saw mill standing to Ezra Carter March 24, 1803

John Boynton sold  $\frac{1}{4}$  of saw mill to Ezra Carter Sept. 20, 1803

Edward Fifield sold saw mill to Ezra Carter March 21, 1803

Ephraim Chamberlin bought mill and distillery of Ezra Carter Oct. 3, 1805

Carter & Chamberlin partnership was formed, as Chamberlin had married Carter's daughter, Dorcas. (*O. D. M. from Wheelock Land Records*)

### FIRST GRISTMILL IN THE HOLLOW

In 1792 Abraham Morrill arranged with Capt. Joshua Weeks of Canterbury, N. H. to build a gristmill in compliance with the terms of agreement with Pres. John Wheelock of Dartmouth College. Joshua Weeks had married Susannah, sister of Abraham Morrill. (*Her letter home to Canterbury, after their removal to Wheelock in 1800, is in the Dartmouth College Archives*)

The site chosen was one to utilize the water-power of Millers Run at the head of the long waterfall in Wheelock Hollow and through the years the gristmill was known as the Old Mill. On the same dam a sawmill was built on the opposite side of the stream.

In return for building the mills, Abraham Morrill gave Joshua Weeks the land on which the greater part of the village was later built. Weeks built the first village house on what was later the Charles Rogers, Jr. place, according to deeds of the property. Samuel Weeks, mentioned in *Child's Gazetteer of Caledonia and Essex Counties* was his son. Tradition says that Samuel built the first potato whiskey distillery and potashery in the village just below "the Island."

Capt. Joshua Weeks' name appears in the town records of 1800 and he operated both mills for several years thereafter. In 1819 Joshua Weeks deeded the sawmill and gristmill to his sons, Ezekiel, Samuel and John. Later Samuel and Ezekiel deeded their interests to John. In 1821 John Weeks deeded the sawmill to John Chase, with water reserved sufficient to carry the gristmill on the other side of the stream and this reservation followed in all subsequent deeds from John Chase through Hiel Bradley and his successors. Only the sawmill deeds carried the water reservation, no mention of this being in the gristmill deeds, only a description of the gristmill privilege and buildings. (*Cree Family Papers*) In 1846 the gristmill was equipped with new millstones and better power. It was widely known as being especially good for milling wheat. Extensive business was carried on for many years. It ground all kinds of grain, also grain and flour were sold there.

John Weeks deeded the gristmill to Joseph Ingalls, who was succeeded in ownership by James Morrill, Judge Benjamin Conner, Charles Ingalls, John Rennie, Thomas Stetson, Henry Perley, Horace Bradley, E. C. Mathewson, Osborn Ward, George Williams, Milo H. Burbank, William G. Sanborn, James McDowell, Clement Gray, D. M. McLean, W. S. Wright and Charles Miles.

The flood of October 1869 carried away the



THE OLD MILL

dam and washed out the lower part of the mill, but it was restored for business and remained the Old Mill until the building was torn down in the summer of 1941.

The old millstone, used as a memorial to the soldiers of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, was taken from the gristmill. One source said that the stone came from Millstone Hill, Barre, Vt. However, Danforth B. Leslie, dentist and town official for many years, said that it came from a granite boulder on the top of Southmayde Hill. It was brought to Wheelock, said Leslie, by Eli Eastman and sons, John and Beri Eastman. It was hauled by eight pairs of oxen and, when descending a hill, three extra pairs of oxen were hitched to the rear of the load to ease it down the slope.

In early years the water appears to have been sufficient to operate the mill continuously, but by Civil War times, if not earlier, it lacked power badly in dry seasons and could almost be classified as a "thundershower mill." At times the water supply was so short that the miller ground his grain by running out the pond and then waiting for it to fill up again. This was pretty slow business and somewhat exasperating to the customers who had long waits.

#### THE MILLS OF THE GODS GRIND SLOWLY

It was "low water" when Judge Benjamin Conner took a grist to mill. Others were ahead of him, so he had to wait. As the slow grinding of the old mill began to get on his nerves, he said, "Mr. Perley, I can eat the flour faster than you can grind it."

Henry Perley straightened up, removed his pipe, and asked, "How long could you do it, Judge?"

" 'Til I starved," came the quick reply.

(*Mathewson Papers, VHS, Montpelier*)



## SAWMILLS EARLY AND LATE

The earliest industry in nearly every rural community was a sawmill. It was located at a waterfall on a brook or river with sufficient water to drive the old fashioned overshot wheel. As the town grew, more sawmills were built, until they were scattered over it pretty generally.

All of the old sawmills were set right on the edge of the stream just below the dam, so the water could be carried in a short sluice onto the wheel. Usually the mill building was enclosed on the side next to the stream and at the ends. The front was all open, so that logs could be rolled from the log pile directly to the carriage. The openness of the old mills gave rise to the inquiry, when people were careless about closing doors, "Where were you brought up? In a sawmill?"

These old mills were all equipped with up-and-down saws. The log, securely fastened to the carriage, was fed up to the saw as fast as it could cut its boards. When lumber was plentiful, the log was often squared and then sawed into boards. Instead of sawing off a board at a time, the up-and-down saw was run through to within four, or six, inches of the end of the log and then the carriage was run back and the saw started on the second board. This process was repeated until the log was all sawed. Then the boards were split off with an axe and a thin wedge. The unsawed end of the log was called the "heading." When the boards were used, it was cut off, although sometimes it was hewed with an axe and used especially in building fences.

Slabs were of little value and were often given away, if one would take them from the saw. They were cut up, usually with an axe, into "four-foot" lengths and piled up to dry, making excellent wood for summer use.

The mill yard was usually in front of the mill and if the yard sloped down towards the mill, it was easier to get the logs to the saw. If a man drew his logs in early enough, he might get them into the skidway directly in front of the mill and so save the trouble of further hauling later.

Patrons of the mill always tried to get handy places for their log piles. Each man had his logs marked in some way for identification. There was also more or less rivalry to get the best places to stack the lumber, unless it was drawn home as sawed.

The old mill yard presented quite a different appearance from the one of today. Then, the yard

was full of large, choice logs cut from the virgin forest. It was no uncommon thing to see logs of spruce and pine thirty, or more, inches in diameter.

When the old sawmill was washed away in the flood of 1869, there was an old pine log nearly four feet in diameter lying in the mill yard waiting to be sawed. It had been cut by Orin Nelson in the swamp on Mathewson Hill. The log lay abandoned in the yard for two or three years, when it was given to George Heath, who was building his house on the "back road" to Lyndon near the bridge. He had the log split into several pieces so that it could be cut with a circular saw.

In 1820 there were four sawmills recorded in Wheelock. At the notch of the Sutton road, near the Charles Mathewson place, was a sawmill. In a rate-bill issued to Samuel Allen in 1827 it was called the Old Saw Mill. It was probably built by Thomas Mathewson as one of the pioneer sawmills of the town. (*O. D. M.*) At a much later date there was a sawmill further up the hill near the Samuel Nelson place. According to Zadock Thompson's *Vermont*, there was a sawmill on the outlet of Flagg Pond in West Wheelock in 1840.

After Jacob Foss came to South Wheelock in 1811, he ran Isaac Stanton's sawmill on the outlet of Chandler Pond. Later, Amos Shattuck had a carding mill there. This continued to be a favored spot through a hundred years, combining as it did a plentiful water supply, a sharp fall, and accessibility to the whole wooded area of the township. In 1858 D. Sanderson ran a sawmill there (*Walling's Map of Caledonia County*). In 1878 William Henry Jones built a sawmill at this site, having a board saw only and employing three men as late as 1888. (*Child's Gazetteer*). As a young man he had learned early about sawmills, as "he helpt raise a sawmill on the Mt. Stream" on Sept. 9, 1861. (*Stephen Mathewson Jones' Diary*) This was probably for E. M. & I. P. Magoon, whose sawmill in 1858 stood across the stream from the Mountain School on the east side of the road to North Danville. (*Walling's Caledonia County Map*). As late as 1875 *Beers Atlas* lists these men as lumber merchants.

In 1904 Alden J. Rennie bought the Jones mill at Chandler Pond, and, with James McDowell as partner, made lumber from their timber holdings in South Wheelock. (*Jeffrey, Successful Vermonters* p. 208)



Among the lumbermen in Wheelock, who were recalled by Judge W. H. Taylor, were Stowe & Waterhouse, 1856; Aaron Melvin and Calvin Blake, 1861-1863; J. H. Smith and Samuel Ayer, 1866; J. H. Smith and John W. Sanborn, 1867; Smith was succeeded by C. H. Ball in 1869 and John Sanborn continued until 1871, when he was succeeded by W. A. Sanborn, who did business until 1876.

In later years, Weed & Hoffman ran a sawmill from 1917 to 1919. In 1934 a sawmill was operated by Sax-House Spring Company and from 1936 to 1938 a mill was run by Norton, Spring Company.



RENNIE'S SAWMILL

#### OTHER WHEELOCK HOLLOW INDUSTRIES

The story of these millsites and water privileges in the village is a complicated and changing one. The fact that this part of the town had first been a part of Sheffield and was apportioned to Wheelock, so that the latter could have better water-power, gave rise to the saying that "Wheelock got Sheffield's boot and it was a good piece of town cobbling."

To account for the location of these early industries, we must rely on the memories of early residents, as most of the buildings that once lined the stream on both sides are now gone. A composite picture of the articles written by O. D. Mathewson, John Chase of the *Vermont Union-Journal*, and others whose names are unknown, would make the series of old time industries appear to be as follows.

#### THE OLD SHED

At the upper end of the village at the first dam was a cabinet shop built and operated by Caleb Miner and, later, by Aaron Melvin. Among the men who worked there was David Willey, until he moved to Lyndon in 1857. The building was remodelled

by Stowe & Waterhouse into a sawmill. Later, John Smith used it for a wheelwright and general repair shop. After being unoccupied for some years, it was turned into a cooper's shop, under the management of Chadwick and Sawyer. They were followed by the Howards, who did a general woodworking business there for several years. A. J. Rennie then used the building for a sawmill, which was later destroyed by fire.

At the dam next below was the original village grist mill and across the stream on the south side was the sawmill run by Col. John Chase. He sold to Sewall Bradley. It was last owned and operated by John Sanborn. It used the old fashioned "up-and-down" saw in the manufacture of lumber. The mill was so badly damaged in the great flood of October 1869 that it was never rebuilt.

#### FIRST WHEELOCK MANUFACTURING COMPANY

On the third dam on the north side of the stream was the old woolen factory. This was a co-operative association, called the Wheelock Manufacturing Company and composed mostly of farmers in the neighborhood of the village. The chief product was gray "full cloth," used especially for men's pants. The company did quite a business, at one time employing over forty hands. It is generally supposed to have been started in 1831. Records show that Beniah Sanborn sold the Wheelock Manufacturing Company some land on March 20, 1840. Some dissatisfaction among the owners led to the company's dissolution after about ten years of operation. The machinery was sold to parties in Barre and the building either torn down, or incorporated into the threshing machine factory of Osborn Ward in 1852. In 1865 a brother, Daniel H. Ward, joined the business as a partner.



MILLS ON MILLERS RUN





S. G. CREE SHOPS

## WHEELOCK THRESHING MACHINE COMPANY

In 1865 the Ward business was bought out by Stephen G. Cree. He installed new machinery from time to time and thus maintained one of the best equipped machine shops in the county. In the first years of ownership he made horse rakes, too. The mill had three lathes, an iron planer, wood planer, sawing machine and blacksmith tools. Threshing machines, horse-powers and wood sawing machinery were made there. Andrew Wolcott, among others, worked with Cree.

## SECOND WHEELOCK MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The threshing machine factory later housed the Wheelock Manufacturing Company that made flexible metal tubing for sale all over the United States. Lucius N. Cree, son of Stephen G. Cree and grandson of T. J. Cree, was interested in this enterprise.

## THE TANNERIES

Also on the third dam was the tannery built by Ward Bradley in 1845 (*Walton's Vermont Register*, 1846). This was the second tannery to be built in the Hollow. The first one was set up by Amos Wakefield on land opposite the Brick Hotel, which Jonathan Weeks had deeded to Wakefield in 1830. He ran it for some time and then sold to Samuel Ayer, who continued it until 1834, when the property was sold to T. J. Cree. The building was torn down and Dr. Reuben Gray built a house on the site.

As there was no tannery in the town then, the Bradleys new venture served a local need, as most towns had tanneries in the early days. In 1847 the tannery was sold to Charles Mathewson, Jr., who later sold it to his brother, Harley P. Mathewson, and Arthur Mathewson. From 1854-1863 the

tannery was owned by William Weeks. In 1867 Charles Ingalls is listed as a "tanner" in Wheelock.

At one time, men's overshoes were made of calfskin, tanned with the hair on. Shoes of this nature were made in the loft over the bark shed by George W. Cree and Luther Cree. They had a similar shop in Marshfield, Vt. The old tannery building was finally sold to S. G. Cree, who used it for a storage shed for lumber and machinery for his threshing machine works, before tearing it down.

## THE CARDING MILL

On the fourth waterfall was a dam that furnished power for Col. John Chase's carding and cloth-dressing mill, which he built in 1808 on the north side of Millers Run. In front of it, near where Judge Hoffman later lived, stood John Chase's tavern. This was later moved across the street, where it now bears the marker, COL. JOHN CHASE'S INN, placed there by his grandson, Ferd W. Chase.

Col. Chase was at first a partner with Edward Gilman, a clothier by trade, with whom he had come from Boscawen, N. H. in 1806. They were the first to commence such commercial operations in Wheelock Village. In the spring of 1806 they both moved into the log cabin they had built, but by the fall each had erected a frame house. In the spring of 1807 Gilman fitted up a room in his house for dressing cloth. In the fall of that year, Chase became his successor and carried on the business for nearly 25 years. Across the street, near where Dr. Danforth B. Leslie, the dentist, later lived was the "dry house" in connection with the carding mill.

## THE STARCH FACTORY

In 1854 the former carding mill was used by Albertus Allen for a starch factory. It burned after a few years and was not replaced. Just below the factory, near the river, was a boarding house for the factory workers. At one time it was occupied by Noah Dean, who made boots and shoes, employing two or three men in help.

## THE PINE-TREE CREAMERY

The building for the old creamery stood on the left side of the Danville road beyond the second bridge. It must have been somewhere near the site

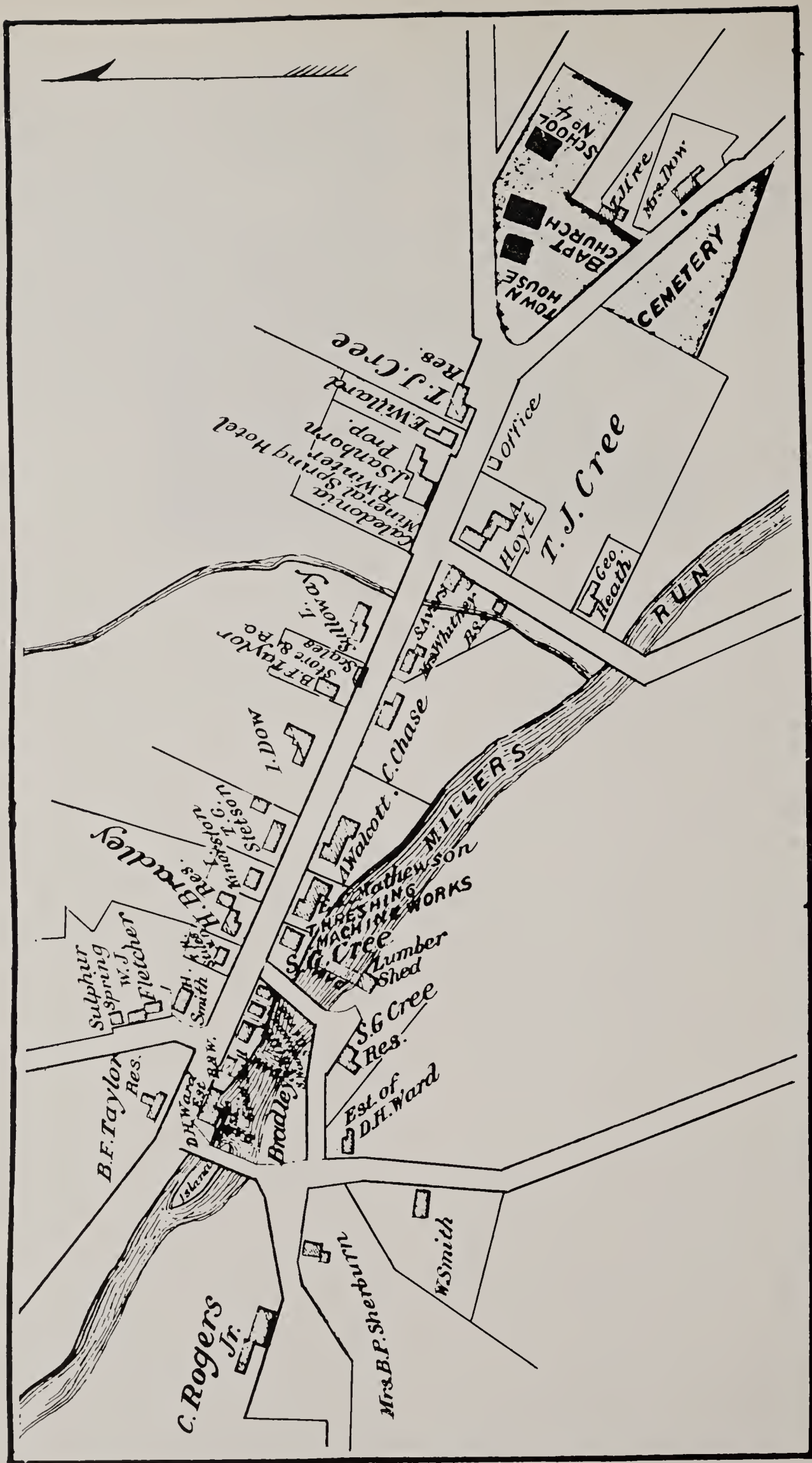
of the first store set up by Erastus Fairbanks. The Pine-Tree Creamery later burned.

In 1917 S. A. Buck ran the creamery in Wheelock and this was later carried on by his widow.



PINE-TREE CREAMERY



WHEELOCK VILLAGE IN 1875 (*Beers Atlas*)

## Chapter XXX

# Craftsmen, Merchants, and Others

*"They are all farmers and again every farmer is a mechanic in some line or other, as inclination leads or necessity requires. The hand that guides the plough frequently constructs it and the labour of the axe and the plane often evince a degree of genius that would really amaze you." . . . Ira Allen 1798*

Almost as soon as settlers began to move into Wheelock, itinerant merchants came to serve their needs. Joseph Venen is credited with being the first resident shoemaker. The tinker and cobbler continued their services well after the community became established and were often a welcome change in the routine of the isolated farm. "The travelling cobbler's itinerant craft was called 'whipping the cat.'" (*Rowland Robinson's History of Vermont*, pp. 293-294).

In 1831 Benjamin West presented this bill to Ward Bradley:

Shoemaking for Hiel	2.73
Shoemaking for Sewall	2.11
Shoemaking for W. B.	2.50
Making 11 pair Morocco Shoes	5.50
	<hr/>
	12.84

Samuel Ayer, a resident of Wheelock, presented a bill for shoemaking to Squire Bradley in 1824. Elias F. Bennett sold him shoes in 1830.

### BOOTS AND BUTTERNUTS

Lorenzo Sulloway had a shoe shop on the Main street of the village just north of where the brook flows under the highway. It was a favorite rendezvous of the boys, as it was right next to the school and they could always get a free piece of cobbler's wax when school was keeping. Uncle Sulloway was a man of great strength and marked characteristics. The boys frequently brought him butternuts to crack on his knee, which was hard as a board from hammering sole leather on it. He easily cracked the nuts and ate the meats for his pay.

Sulloway had an apprentice, Jim Chesley. A long, lanky fellow, he was known far and wide as "Sulloway's Shoestring." Other shoemakers were

Noah Dean, Samuel Willey, Samuel Wallace, Carley Gerald (also a blacksmith). In 1871-78 S. S. Woodmansee sold shoes, and in 1872, W. A. Chase.

### TINKERS AND TINSMITHS

Besides being a delight to the housewife in supplying her with mugs, milk pans, plates, etc., as recorded in the Thomas Hoyt Day Book (*Mathewson Papers*) the travelling tinker also sold to storekeepers. Obadiah Miles charged Ward Bradley for these items:

Wheelock Dec. 27, 1806			
Ward Bradley Bot			
Obadiah Miles			
1	Lanthorn	at 3/6	L. O. 3-6
1	flat dish		4-0
1	skimmer		1-9
1	tea dipper		2-0
1	pr Shear		7-6
1	tart pan		2-6
1	pot		7
2	pots		13
3	tin pans	at 3/6	10-6
1	tin Qt. measure		1-2
1	candlestick		6
			<hr/>
			L. 2 13s-5d.

Hiram Davis sold Bradley 6 dozen milk pans in 1820 and Daniel J. Hutchinson also sold him milk pans. In 1833 Samuel Gilman sold him tinware. (*Mathewson Papers have these receipts*)

### COFFINS AND CHISTS

Theophilus Folsom, Jr. lived in Wheelock village near Sulloway Brook, where S. W. Drake lived in recent years. Folsom operated a general utility shop, making all kinds of furniture, window sash, "chists," "slays," "yoaks," etc. He apparently



made most of the coffins used locally. The prices ranged from 75 cents to \$2.00, the usual price being \$1.00. He was probably born in Sanbornton, N. H. in 1793 and came with his father to Wheelock around 1798. On Feb. 18, 1816 he married as his first wife, Abigail Carter, by whom he had a daughter, Laura. His second wife was Amanda Hoffman and their son was Henry M. Folsom.



BLACKSMITHS

The earliest blacksmith at the Hollow was Joseph Harris, who is supposed to have come from Rhode Island as an acquaintance of the Mathewson families. He set up business at the south edge of town near the Lyndon line. A granite marker at the edge of the highway shows the spot.

Nathaniel Brown, blacksmith of South Wheelock, built the house that became the parsonage and had his shop across the road.

Beyond the little brook which runs into Sulloway Brook was a blacksmith shop built by Asa Barber in 1860. It was later used as a laundry for the hotel, after Royal Winter became proprietor.

Down Sulloway Brook, toward the bridge over Millers Run, was a two story building used as a blacksmith shop, first by Carley Gerald and, afterwards, by Jesse Felker, and in 1872 by Charles W. Jones. This shop stood over the stream and had a waterwheel which operated the triphammer. Here a small wheelwright business was carried on by One-armed McKenzie, who lived beyond the present schoolhouse near Calvin Blake's brickyard. Ira McQuillan was also a wheelwright around 1848, as told by Ferd Chase. D. H. Ward is listed in the business directory of 1872 as, "wheelwright."

#### OLD POD-AUGER DAYS

John W. Brown started making water-log augers at his blacksmith shop in South Wheelock in 1851. Occasionally, one of these old, bored-out logs is found, still leading water down from a mountain spring . . . sound as ever. J. W. Brown was a son of Nathaniel Brown and was born in Wheelock. He married a daughter of Jonathan Folsom. She died in Lyndonville. He served as town clerk for more than 25 years and continued in blacksmithing until 1880. He lived at South Wheelock four corners on the north side of the Mountain road.

#### CARRIAGES AND SLEIGHS

David Willey made carriages at the cabinet shop he ran with Aaron Melvin in the Hollow around 1847. Willey was also a cabinet maker.

According to Walling's 1858 map, Peasley Weeks had a carriage shop on Fall Brook in the Peak District.

In 1862 H. D. Bickford made carriages and sleighs. (*W. H. Taylor*)

The name of N. D. Sawyer appears as a maker of carriages and sleighs in the Wheelock directory of 1887. (*Child's Gazetteer*)

#### SALT DRYING

One of the activities that required the work of the householder, the merchant and the miller was "salt drying." One of the items brought back to Wheelock on freighting trips to Portland, Boston and Portsmouth was salt. The miller would usually set aside one day in the year for "salt grinding." In Ward Bradley's accounts the salt was listed as "T. I." and "Exumar" salt, showing that it had travelled from Turks Island and the Exumas in the British West Indies.

"Many times I have seen old ladies wash rock salt," wrote Ferd Chase in a letter to O. D. M. "They then put it on a sheet and spread it on the grass to dry in the sun. This was for dairy and table use. This was done by my mother in my time."

#### COOPERS

One of the essential handcrafts of years ago was coopering. Wooden containers were used in the home and on the farm and were made locally when-



ever required. An entry in the Thomas Hoyt diary (*Mathewson Papers, VHS*) accounts for the time spent making sap troughs, milk "pales," churn, wash tub, sap pails, all soon after the earliest settlers arrived.

Almost every town had one, or more, coopers. A cooper usually had a shop where he did his work, although in some cases a back kitchen was used. He did not require many tools, but some were peculiar to his trade, such as a curved shave and a "horse."

Wood of the finest quality was abundant in early days and cedar and spruce were generally used for all kinds of coopering. Cedar was especially used for all kinds of sugaring utensils, such as pails, draw-tubs, buckets, holders, etc.

The commonest article made by the cooper was the pail. Pails were designed for all kinds of uses, both domestic and commercial. The sap pail for the sugar industry held about sixteen quarts and was made larger at the bottom than at the top. In this way the pail would stand firmly on the ground and the sap would not slop over when the pail was being carried. On opposite sides of the top, a stave stuck up some two or three inches, forming "ears" to which a bent handle of ash was fastened with wooden pins, called "lugs." These were whittled out by hand and held in place by a leather "key." Sometimes, the handle was fastened to the outside of the "ears," but usually on the inside, as the pail seemed to "hang better that way." Old fashioned sap pails, or "gathering" pails, were held together by wooden hoops made of brown ash.

Considerable skill was necessary in making these hoops. Care must be used in selecting a straight tree, some seven or eight inches in diameter, which was reasonably free from knots. Then it was cut into bolts, long enough to make hoops of the desired length. The bolt was then quartered and the bark peeled off. The quarters of the bolt were split to form a flat strip thick enough for the width of the hoop. Each strip was then cracked with a froe and mallet.

The strip was next inserted between two stout pins and broken down like a lever. In this way the cracks that had been started would work through the length of the stick, forming a thin flat strip. This was put into a "shave horse" and smoothed with a shave, care being taken to have one edge a little thinner than the other, so as to fit the taper of the pail, or bucket. If the hoop were for immediate use, a

"lock" was cut in it with a sharp knife. Then the "lock" was fastened, the hoop shaped a bit and driven toward the large end of the bucket. If driven too hard, the "lock" would split and so fail to grip the stave tightly enough to prevent leakage. Considerable skill was required to cut the lock so that it would hold fast. Hoops were used green, or only partially dried.

Among the coopers were J. Gray in 1872; George Sherburn and H. C. Goss in South Wheelock, 1871-1880; Byron Berry in 1879-1880. Around 1877 E. S. Bell, George Sherburn and C. H. Chadwick did quite an extensive butter tub business in the Old Shed and N. D. Sawyer carried on the business later. In 1880 Alanson Gee made butter tubs in South Wheelock. (*W. B. Jones Day Book, Mathewson Papers, VHS*)

#### THE CREE ENTERPRISES

The T. J. Cree tannery stood across the road from the brick Hotel, as shown in *Beers Atlas* of Wheelock Village in 1875. This business was owned by Judge Cree, while on the left of the Sutton road, as it left the village, was a sizable two story building in which he carried on his trade of carpenter. His brother, Luther, worked with him, also sold stoves. This building was later moved to a site between the tannery and gristmill and was there used to store threshing machines made by Osborn Ward. It was later torn down.

#### SUITS AND DRESSES

Abigail (Abbie) Dow, the village seamstress, lived where the band stand was later built on the park. She made clothes for children and adults and was fondly remembered by all. Her sister, Eliza, was also a seamstress. Another sister, Hannah, married Ira McQuillan, wheelwright. All were daughters of Josiah, "Quaker," Dow.

#### HEADS AND FEET

In 1867 Mrs. Andrew Wolcott ran a small shop in the village.

In 1872 Mrs. Lorenzo Sulloway sold hats, at the time her husband, L. Sulloway, Jr. was in partnership at the store with B. F. Taylor.

Around 1875 Martha Jones, daughter of William B. Jones and former teacher in the Chandler



Pond, Mountain and Red Schoolhouse schools, opened a millinery shop in town.

In 1878 Mrs. William Ranney bought out Mrs. Sulloway and continued to supply the ladies with hats, while her husband, as shoemaker, supplied the shoes.

Louisa Sawyer ran a millinery shop in the Hollow at a later date. Mary L. Dana had a similar shop at her home on route 13. At both places fancy goods and notions were also for sale.

### THE RIVALS

Rival stores were kept at various times in small shops, private houses and the hotel. Calvin Blake, while running the hotel, was the first to put in store goods there. B. F. Pearl had a store in 1882; Fred Day, 1885-1886; J. G. Gray, at the hotel, in 1887; M. D. Park, 1884 to 1893; W. J. Wilson, 1893-1894; Marshal Way, 1894; W. S. Rollins, 1895.

### OTHERS

Robert Perkins	1819	Mason
Hiram Barton	1871-1881	Carpenter
Curtis Mooney	1875	Carpenter
(South Wheelock)		
David Wood & Sons	1881-1890	Carpenter
William Wilson	1871	Harness maker
Robert Coleman	1871-1876	Mason
Edmund Day	1871-1897	Mason
J. B. Gibson	1875-1880	Carpenter

### SUGARING RECORDS OF THOMAS CHANDLER 1844-1879

"The earliest that Mr. Chandler recorded tapping was March 11, 1844. On 19 years he began about the last week in March, while on 11 years he began the first week in April. He finished in May ten times, the latest being on May 9, 1874. His record does not agree with the common impression that people began to sugar earlier years ago than now. However, his sugar place may have been a late one." (O. D. M.)

### WHEELOCK ENTERPRISES AS ADVERTISED IN BEERS ATLAS 1875

Bean, Benjamin—farmer Dist. No. 7  
Bradley, H.—dealer in flour and grain, custom grinding village  
Brown, J. W.—blacksmith South Wheelock  
Cree, T. J.—attorney-at-law village

Cree, S. G.—Mfgr. of threshing machines, with, or without, drag or circular saw-rig attached; also chains, lagg, lagg bolts, and teeth for repairs constantly on hand Village

Gray, S. G.—farming, dairying and wool growing, Dist. No. 7

Jones, A.—stone-cutter South Wheelock

Jones, W. B.—farmer Dist. No. 6

Magoon, E. M. & I. P.—lumber South Wheelock

Rogers, Charles, Jr.—farmer village

Shattuck, S. F.—farmer Dist. No. 6

True, M. C.—farmer and wool grower Dist. No. 6

Willey, Almon—painter, South Wheelock

### WHEELOCK BUSINESS DIRECTORY IN VERMONT REGISTER 1880

Population—822

Clerk and Treasurer—Charles Rogers

Selectmen—M. D. Welch, Ferdinand Darling, Samuel D. Gray

Constable and Overseer—Henry Hoffman

Supt. of Schools—Samuel A. Jones

Listers—Thomas Chandler, C. M. Richardson

Town Agent—Thomas Jefferson Cree

Postmasters—Wheelock Hollow, B. F. Taylor;  
South Wheelock, S. H. Jones

Justices—Charles Rogers, Samuel H. Jones, Calvin Chase, Jesse G. Gray, Holmes Willey

Churches—Baptist Hollow, M. Atwood; West Wheelock, H. Stiles  
Methodist, Daniel Lewis

Lawyer—T. C. Cree village

Mechanics—blacksmiths, Robert Ranney, M. S. Staples, village, J. W. Brown, S. Wheelock

Carpenters—David Wood, H. F. Barton, village, J. B. Gibson, S. Wheelock

Coopers—M. D. Sawyer, village, George Sherburn and Alonson Gee, S. Wheelock

Hairdresser—G. L. Barber

Harnessmaker—Byron Berry

Machinist—S. G. Cree

Mason—Edmond Day

Shoemaker—William Ranney

Milliner—Mrs. William Ranney

Merchant—B. F. Taylor

## WHEELOCK IN 1887

IN CHILD'S GAZETTEER OF ESSEX AND  
CALEDONIA COUNTIES

- Auctioneer—Jesse G. Gray, Main st.  
Peddler—Harvey Bean, r. 39 (East Greensboro)  
Blacksmiths—Edward J. Dana, r. 13; M. S. Staples,  
Main st.  
Shoemaker—William J. Ranney, Main st.  
Builder & Carpenter—Curtis G. Mooney, r. 59;  
Nathan D. Sawyer, Main st.; David Wood, r.  
33 (Sheffield)  
Wheelwright—Nathan D. Sawyer, Main st.  
Carriage, Wagon & Sleigh mfgr.—Nathan D. Saw-  
yer, Main st.  
Surveyor—Hon. Charles Rogers, r. 12  
Minister—Rev. Rufus J. Russell, South Wheelock  
Dentist—Dr. Danforth B. Leslie, Main st.  
Merchant—B. F. Taylor, Main st.  
Grist Mill—Milo H. Burbank, Main st.  
Grocer—Jesse G. Gray, Main st.  
Wheelock Hotel—Jesse J. Gray, prop.  
Horse Dealer—William Hart, r. 27, South Whee-  
lock  
Machine Works—S. G. Cree, mfgr. of threshing ma-  
chines, horse powers, sawmill machinery, etc.,  
Main st.  
Millinery and fancy goods—Mary L. Dana, r. 13;  
Louisa Sawyer, Main st.  
Planing Mill—S. G. Cree  
Saw Mill—W. H. Jones, r. 52, South Wheelock  
Postmaster—B. F. Taylor, Wheelock Hollow;  
Aaron B. Chandler, South Wheelock  
Justices of the Peace—Charles Rogers, Joseph Patch,  
J. G. Gray, William Bean, Ferdinand Darling.



THE  
**AMERICAN BOTANIST,**  
AND  
**FAMILY PHYSICIAN :**

IN WHICH

The medical virtues of the Mineral, Animal and Vegetable productions of North America are exhibited ; together with their uses in the practice of Physic and Surgery ; some of which are selected from Dr. STEARNS, and other Authors, but mostly original.

COMPREHENDING

A Treatise upon the principal disorders of the climate ; together with directions for preparing, compounding, and applying proper medicines for their cure.

.....*Likewise*.....

A LARGE NUMBER OF INDIAN DISCOVERIES IN THE MEDICAL ART, NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED.

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By John Monroe.

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COMPILED BY SILAS GASKILL.

WHEELLOCK, (VT.) PUBLISHED BY JONATHAN MORRISON,

1824.

Danville—Eben'r. Eaton, Printer.

## Chapter XXXI

# The American Botanist

So far as known only two books have been published by Wheelock residents: one, *A Manual of School Law* by Judge W. H. Taylor, and the other, *The American Botanist and Family Physician* by John Morrison in 1824.

As shown by the title page, the latter was the combined effort of several men. Mr. Morrison lived on the farm later occupied by Walker C. Leslie, beyond Ramsay Corner on the mountain road to Greensboro. John Monroe, formerly of New Hampshire, as explained in the preface, practiced his herbal arts in Wheelock and vicinity. As early as 1811 he placed public notices in the *North Star* of Danville, urging his patients to pay their bills.

On the inside of the cover of the little herbal is a kind of copyright, which reads:

DISTRICT OF VERMONT, To Wit:

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the fifth day of November, in the forty-eighth year L. S. of the Independence of the United States of America JONATHAN MORRISON, of said district, hath deposited in this office, the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as proprietor, in the words following, *to wit*:

"THE AMERICAN BOTANIST, AND  
FAMILY PHYSICIAN

By JOHN MONROE. Two Volumes in one"

In conformity to an Act of Congress of the United States, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned."

JESSE GOVE

*Clerk of the District of Vermont*

A true copy of record

Examined and sealed by me,

J. Gove, *Clerk*

PREFACE

*To The Public*

The author of the following sheets is a native of New Hampshire but now resides in the northerly part of Vermont; where he has been for a number of years engaged in the practice of physic;—and as health is the foundation of all the enjoyments of life, the preservation of it (next to our eternal well-being in the world

towards which we are making rapid advances) demands our most serious attention;—for if possessed of all that this perishing world could afford, without this inestimable blessing, our conditions would be miserable.

It is clear as the sun at noon day, that nature has provided in her minerals, animals and vegetables, an effectual remedy, if administered in season, for all the disorders incident to the human system. Of the two latter, the author has treated more particularly in the following work, omitting the minerals, which, on account of their poisonous quality, ought, in his humble opinion, to be laid aside.

Under these considerations, he here offers to the public a work, in which after treating in a botanical way of the animal and vegetable productions of the climate, he has taken up each disorder separately, and endeavored to point out to his fellow creatures the means by which they may be successfully met at every point, and, with due perseverance, and the blessing of Heaven, effectually overcome.

For the attainment of this object, he has travelled; to this end he has labored; and for years has plied himself in the wilds of America, among the natives of the Forest, where he has undergone all the horrors and deprivations incident to savage life, in order to collect, and bring together, that knowledge which should be instrumental in saving the lives and preserving the health of his fellow creatures.

Whilst among the Indians, the Author was a particular intimate and confidant of a native Indian, who had been instructed in all the arts of civilized life, and had received the advantages of a liberal and polite education, being regularly bred a physician in the medical department of the Pennsylvania University, established at Philadelphia; at once the most flourishing and respectable institution of its kind in the United States, and hardly excelled by any in Europe. Whilst with this Indian, the Author had not only an opportunity of learning the Indian methods of treating disorders, and the medical virtues of the vegetable kingdom, but likewise of gaining much literary and scientific knowledge.

Previous to this, however, he had studied the medical art with several physicians, according to the methods then in vogue, and spent much time in reading different authors, among which were Culpepper, Boerhaave, etc. and after



## Chapter XXXII

# Old Taverns

When the town was young, it was a simple matter to "keep tavern." Any log cabin, as soon as it could shelter a traveller and provide a lean-to and oats for his horse, could be called by the builder a TAVERN. Meals and "spirits" were, more or less, what the family had on hand and were heartily welcomed by the stranger from "down country."

Joseph Venen, an original lessee of Lot No. 75, is said to have "kept tavern near the Danville line." Further north, along the County road, Col. John Bean put up travellers at his house. This was later deeded to his son-in-law, Col. Edward Fifield, and was then known throughout the countryside as FIFIELD TAVERN.

Around 1825 Jesse Leavenworth, Jr. kept tavern somewhere near the millsite in South Wheelock. (*Across the road from the Samuel H. Jones place, wrote O. D. M.*) William Chamberlain, the Dartmouth College treasurer and professor of the classics, put up at Leavenworth's Stand in 1827. A bill for his lodging reads:

Wm. Chamberlain to J. Leavenworth Dr	
To expense board and horsekeeping	
Day and Night	1.00
To use of rooms for collections, Spirits, etc.	.50
	<hr/>
	\$1.50

Recevd Payment  
Wheelock May 29th 1827

J. Leavenworth

Professor Chamberlain, son of Gen. William Chamberlain of Peacham and one-time headmaster of Caledonia County Grammar School, also patronized Col. John Chase's Inn at Wheelock Hollow when collecting the college rents in that area. There his bill was:

Wm. Chamberlain to John Chase Dr	
Jany 2d to Two Meals victuals	.50
Jany 3d to Four Do	1.00
Jany 4th to Two Do	.50
to L to D	.25
To horse keeping 2 days 4cts. to grain	.60

To use of rooms in collecting	
rent .75 to Spirits	2.00
	<hr/>
	\$4.85

Recd Payment

John Chase

When Col. Fifield went west to Ohio, he sold out to Elijah Bagley, who continued the tavern as Bagley's Stand. This farm later became the Buckley place.

At the Hollow Thomas Mathewson "kept tavern" at his farm on the old county road between the Squabble Hollow district of Lyndon and the Sheffield Line.

In the village proper Samuel Ayer built the Brick Hotel in 1830. It was an impressive building for those times and its erection is said to have changed the main stage route between Boston and Montreal, so that it afterwards passed through the village, after leaving South Wheelock, instead of following its original way by Ramsay Corner to Sheffield and northern towns.

At the Brick Tavern it was customary to change horses and often the drivers, recalled Ferd Chase, mentioning John Ford and Ed Writher as two he remembered. Others were Dan Clough and John Hawes.

The Brick Tavern was also a social center. Early school meetings of District No. 4 often mentioned adjournment to that place, being called after successful owners as Hiel Bradleys Inn (1842); William Johnston's bar room (1845); Carter's bar room (1846).

On the third floor of the tavern was a dance hall, where young and old gathered to enjoy Money Musk, Portland Fancy, Virginia Reel and other favorites, while Martin Doyle and Noah Dean fiddled and called the changes. These were not the "select assemblies" of later times, but in case anyone misbehaved he was invited to leave. If he took too much time in so doing, he was ejected without ceremony.

Other owners of the Brick Tavern, than those already mentioned, were James Roberts, Mr. San-

ford, Lyman Kimball, Calvin Blake, Asa Barber (1861), Royal Winter (1864), Adolphus Winter (Royal's son), Samuel Hanscom, Horace Stiles, John Sanborn, Jesse G. Gray, Myron D. Park (1895), Marshal Way (1898) and A. J. Rennie.

(*Hotels in Wheelock, Mathewson, Vermont History Vol. XXV Jan. 1957*)

## TAKING THE WATERS

*They pray and they play and they pay,—and that's what they do at the Springs*

... John Saxe's *What Do They Do At The Springs?*

An early reference, perhaps the first, to Wheelock's mineral springs occurs on pages 75 and 76 of the *American Botanist and Family Physician*. Here John Monroe states, "There are three springs in Wheelock and another in Danville, Vermont, which promote digestion and prove diuretic. They cure the itch and other cutaneous eruptions, and are of use in rheumatic complaints."

It is easy to identify two of the Wheelock mineral springs, one at the rear of the brick hotel; the other on the Mineral Spring road just off the main street at the north end of the village. Where the third might have been, there is no known record.

The second of the two springs was, in 1830, considered locally as nothing better than a swamp and gained the reputation of the "stinking spring." It is said that passersby often "held their noses" and ladies were "shocked as they sniffed its foul atmosphere." (*Newspaper clipping of 1870*) Its sulphur content is said to have given the water the taste of rotten eggs.

In legal language, however, the mineral spring was called "Medicl Spring" in a deed from Horatio Morrill to Aaron Melvin, Jr., dated June 11, 1836.

There is a story that Jethro Horn, one of Ward Bradley's store customers in 1827, built a house within twenty feet of the spring in 1834. He tried to "fill the damn thing up" so that its smell would not annoy the household but it would always break out again, with its accompanying sulphurous odor. In the course of time, a barrel was sunk in the spring and the family began to use the water. By degrees, others came to use it, especially in summer when the water was much colder than that of other springs.

Benjamin Conner is credited with building the house next to the spring where W. C. Fletcher lived and, later, Harley Deos. Mr. Fletcher built the first spring house, a small wooden building with a door,

which was replaced in 1916 by the elaborate kiosk given to the town by Ferd W. Chase.

Mineral springs of all kinds were abundant in Vermont and, in most localities, were made note of by early settlers and physicians. The healing property of waters heavily impregnated with various minerals was proclaimed in some twenty towns in the state, as well as in neighboring New York, following similar discoveries in Europe over the centuries.

"By the 1850's health resorts were burgeoning all over Vermont," wrote Louise Koier in *Vermont Life*, Summer 1957, pp. 56-60, "and there were elegant boarding houses in widely separated communities." These brought the first flood of tourists to Vermont, claimed Mrs. Koier, and there was a "rapid 're-discovery' of many curative waters in the 1860's" for "anyone could see that here was a real bonanza."



MINERAL SPRING—WHEELOCK

(Courtesy—Caledonian-Record)

So, new interest was awakened in Wheelock's mineral springs. What had previously been considered a local curiosity at best and a "stinking hole" at worst, now came to be viewed with commercial hope. Its healthful properties were remembered, rehearsed and enlarged, until there were few known ailments that the healing waters could not cure.

In his article for *Hemenway's Gazetteer of 1867*, Judge T. J. Cree did not fail to call attention to Wheelock's mineral springs, "one in the village and another 50 rods north." In keeping with the times, he wrote:

The water of the one in the village is used for common drinking purposes by the whole village in the warm part of the year, and more or less at other times, and to this fact is attributed



the unusual healthiness of the inhabitants. These springs are not effected by great rains or drouth, but the water flows at all times alike. Persons subject to headaches, humors and the like have found relief and cure by drinking and bathing in the water.

The reputation of Wheelock's mineral springs never spread far from home, however, until in the late 1860's, when Royal Winter and a company from Boston bought the old Brick Hotel, at the rear of which was the village sulphur spring, and prepared to receive summer visitors. Under his management, he claimed, "the house will be thoroughly kept and what was formerly regarded as a nuisance and offensive to the village, may prove to be its greatest attraction." (*Article by John Chase in The Shopper. St. Johnsbury, 1947*)



CALEDONIA MINERAL SPRINGS HOTEL

Royal Winter enlarged the old tavern, putting on a French roof and two story verandah. He tore down the old barns and built new. He furnished the house in "good style" and brought the water directly to the hotel "by way of a penstock." The new enterprise was christened the CALEDONIA MINERAL SPRINGS HOTEL and so appears in the map of the village in *Beers Atlas of Caledonia County, 1875*. Royal Winter evidently employed John Sanborn as proprietor.

#### THE SULPHUR SPRING PROSPECTUS

To arouse interest in the Wheelock spa on the part of city invalids, Winter had a glowing brochure printed. Its fourteen pages contained an elaborate account of cures effected, with testimonials by the

village doctor, Dr. Americus J. Carter; the county judge, Judge T. Jefferson Cree; by local residents, W. C. Leslie, and Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Willard, cousins of Miss Frances E. Willard, noted W. C. T. U. leader. Boston patients who had already visited the Caledonia Mineral Springs were glad to tell of their cures and thus enlarge the booklet.

The promotional pamphlet was addressed to Anyone plagued by dyspepsia, liver complaint, jaundice, eruptions of the skin, scrofula and other humors, ring worm, salt rhum, barber's itch, piles, costiveness, catarrh, dropsey, Bright's disease of the kidneys, gravel, stone, mercurial sores or diseases arising from nervous prostration.

In addition it was claimed that the waters could work miracles:

As a *Hair Preservative and Restorative* it is undoubtedly without a rival in any remedy now in use—having in numerous cases produced a thick growth of Hair on heads that have been bald for years.

On the theory that "a trial of three bottles will not fail to convince anyone of its beneficial properties," an introductory offer of three bottles for \$1.50 was generously made. The regular price was \$9 for a case of 24 quart bottles, or \$4.50 per dozen.

Among the testimonials, Dr. Carter's advised that "the waters are very pure and is an excellent patent for all cutaneous diseases, especially in bathing, is good also for all diseases where there is a lack of iron in the blood and aenemic diseases of the blood."

Lest these recommendations might seem too provincial to prospective city patients, Mr. Winter consulted Dr. Hayes of Boston and obtained his

#### ANALYSIS OF WHEELOCK MINERAL SPRING

A partial Analysis of Wheelock Spring by Dr. Hayes of Boston

The water is clear, transparent & brisk and has no peculiar odor or taste. One gallon contains 8 44/100 grains saline matter, consisting of chlorides, sulphates and carbonates of soda and potash with a little silisic acid and also carbonate of Lime and Magnesia.

It may be bottled for weeks without losing any of its virtues and is an excellent water for bottling purposes

S. Dana Hayes

State Assayer Mass.

(*Mathewson Papers, V. H. S., Montpelier*)



THE  
CALEDONIA MINERAL SPRING,  
WHEELOCK, VERMONT.

*Its Analysis and Character.*

GENERAL DEPOT FOR CALEDONIA MINERAL SPRING WATER,

53 Federal Street, Boston.

ROYAL WINTER, AGENT.

BOSTON  
WARREN RICHARDSON, PRINTER, 11 MILK STREET  
1869

(Courtesy—Charles Hoyt)

COME ALL YE

Royal Winter, no doubt remembering the Grand Hotels erected at Brattleboro, Sheldon Springs, Middletown, etc. in Vermont, decided to go the limit when describing his own venture. Imagination expanded the modest renovations he had been able to make in the one hundred and thirty year old tavern. On the final pages of the brochure city people would read:

There is a good Hotel in Wheelock in the vicinity of the Spring. It will accomodate one hundred boarders and is intended for the benefit of invalids, as well as the travelling public. For this purpose it has recently been enlarged and refitted under the superintendence of Royal

Winter, Agent, who will be personally present during the Summer season.

The water of the Spring is brought into the Hotel for bathing and for culinary purposes.

Patients shall have medical attendance by Dr. A. J. Carter, who resides in the village.

Passengers taking the 8 A. M. train from Lowell Depot, Boston will arrive at Lyndonville Depot at 5 P. M. without change of cars.

At Lyndonville Coaches will be in readiness to convey passengers to The Caledonia Spring Hotel, five miles distant over a beautiful road.

All orders and communications relating to the Caledonia Mineral Spring should be addressed to Royal Winter, No. 58 Federal St., Boston, or at the Spring, Wheelock, Vermont.

BOTTLE, BOOM AND BUST

"Great expectations were excited by Winter & Co. and for a time Wheelock was under a boom, on the supposition that it was to become a health resort," recalled a newspaper writer of a later date in the *Vermont Union-Journal*. (*Mathewson Papers VHS*) "The company bought 1400 bottles, planning to make a business of bottling the sulphur water and also operating the hotel as a sanitarium. For a time they had quite a large number of boarders and made Wheelock village very lively."

"During the height of the popularity of the springs, it was also the practice of the villagers to make ready the spare room to accomodate a wealthy guest, who would pay well during the period of healing." (*Feature article by Joe Gordon in the Caledonian-Record, St. Johnsbury Oct. 8, 1957*)

It was not long, however, before the dismal note of failure was sounded. Enough people did not come to support the hotel. The French roof proved too heavy for the walls of the hotel and was removed. The water, when bottled, failed to retain its distinctive flavor after a short time and therefore no one wanted to buy it for curative purposes. In fact, lamented the news correspondent of the *Union-Journal*, "the \$12,000 to \$15,000 spent in the attempt to develop the property was practically thrown away."

"The bottles," he continued, "holding a quart each, were in boxes piled outdoors and remained there for several years, being finally sold to H. M. Nichols of Lyndon Center, who afterwards sold them to Phin Benjamin of Wolcott and George Ide of Lyndon, who intended to utilize them in a St. Leon Spring business. But they proved poor, al-



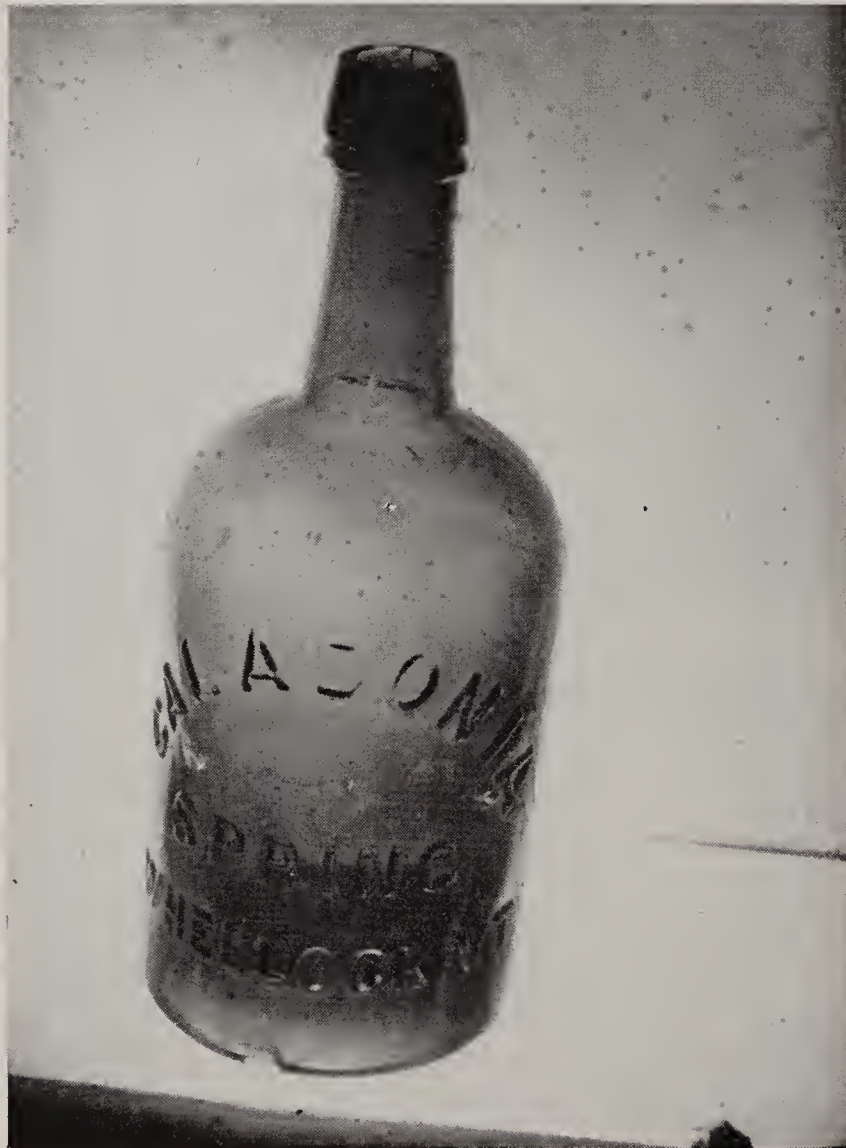
most worthless, and the purchasers kicked; the seller sued; and the usual law tangle followed."

The belief in the merits of the Wheelock mineral springs still held firm in the minds of the citizens of Sheffield, a neighboring town and rival, even until 1902. At that time, when Wheelock was celebrating its 110th Anniversary, Sheffield's correspondent to the local newspaper offered the mineral springs as a means by which Wheelock might emulate the prosperity now enjoyed by her neighbor to the north.

"When the merits of the Caledonia Mineral Springs, located within her village are more widely

known, Wheelock may more than square old accounts. These springs are said to be the most strongly impregnated of any mineral springs in the state . . . The Caledonia House is situated near the spring. Wheelock village may take a start by and by, when she is fully awake to the value of her spring water resources."

Nothing having happened in the fifty-five year interval, however, the present day reporter in the *Caledonian-Record* article of 1957 can only dismiss the heyday of the Caledonia Springs Hotel as "a colorful page of history of which remain only a few brown bottles that are rapidly becoming collectors' items."



THE BROWN BOTTLE  
(Courtesy—*Caledonian-Record*)

## Chapter XXXIII

# Animals

*Horses shall be branded with a Town Brand on or near the left shoulder. Cattle, Swine and Sheep shall have an ear mark of owner as registered in the Town Book . . . . Vermont Statutes*

### THE HAWKINS HORSE

This famous son of the original Justin Morgan was first owned by Moses Melvin, whose name appears early in the records of Wheelock. Melvin had been one of twelve young men who took the Freeman's Oath, when it was first administered in St. Johnsbury on Sept. 2, 1794. Among this group were Jeriah Hawkins and William Hawkins, who settled at Hawkins (Cole) Corner, St. Johnsbury.

*(Hemenway's Gazetteer Vol. I, St. Johnsbury)*

On Nov. 19, 1799 Moses Melvin bought Lot No. 69 in Wheelock from Ichabod Brackett, the original lessee. Melvin's name appears on the list of Wheelock inhabitants objecting to the land tax petition of 1806. He paid a poll tax in town in 1808 and as late as 1812 his horse and cattle were taxed in Wheelock. It was on Moses Melvin's land that the first school house was built in South Wheelock in 1806-1807. *(Mathewson Papers, VHS, Montpelier)*

Moses Melvin was the original owner of the Hawkins Horse, a true Morgan, foaled in 1806. When the horse was three years old it was sold to Oney (Olney) Hawkins of Goss Hollow, a captain of a troop of militia. After five years as Capt. Hawkins' parade horse, the handsome creature was bought by a cousin, Stephen Hawkins, son of Jeriah Hawkins. Stephen Hawkins was a major-general in the State Militia and, no doubt, appreciated the value of a fine horse in time of drill and parade.

*(History of St. Johnsbury, Fairbanks pp. 178-180)*

Business cards for the Hawkins Horse appear in the *North Star* of Danville for May 14, 1817 and in the years 1818 and 1820. Some time after 1820 he was sold to parties in Canada and is often referred to as Young Traveller.

In *The Morgan Horse and Register*, Battell quotes Linsley on p. 129 as saying, "the Hawkins Horse was jet black, about 15 hand high; not quite so compact as his sire; a little taller and a very little bit heavier . . . . He was one of the best acting and

finest looking horses under saddle ever in the State." And in the following paragraph, "The Hawkins horse had a great reputation for speed, both as a trotter and runner, before he left St. Johnsbury." His offspring in Canada were among the fastest trotting horses in that part of Canada, where he stood for many productive years, in and around Stanstead.

STRAY  CATTLE.

**STRAYED** from a pasture in Wheelock some time in June last, Two Yearling

**STEERS**

of a brownish color, and one Red Yearling

**HEIFER,**

All marked with a small notch out of the upper side of the left ear. Whoever will give information to the subscriber in Lyndon where said cattle may be found shall be generously rewarded.

—ALSO—

**CAME** into the enclosure of the subscriber about the first of September last, a light brown two year old

**STEEB.**

The owner is requested to pay charges and take him away.

**JUDE KIMBALL.**

Lyndon, Nov 8, 1828. 1915

*(Farmer's Herald)*



## THE HUNTER

"A gray horse of medium size, foaled about 1800, kept for some years at Danville, said to have been of Arabian blood. Hunter's stock proved leggy and very indifferent. Sold about 1835 to Capt. Davis of Danville, who soon sold to Thomas Blanchard of that place, who had him gelded. Hunter's filly, also gray, about 1000 pounds, was bred to the Sherman Morgan (Lyndon, Vt.) by Enoch Harris of Danville and the get was named Young Sherman. Said to have been a lively and handsome horse. Stock good." . . . (*The Morgan Horse and Register* Vol. I, p. 332, Middlebury, Vt. 1894)

## HOSPITALITY

Perkins Magoon and his wife, Dolly, lived in a poor little house beside the South Wheelock road, on a small bit of land between the road and the stream. As late as the 1870's they lived in the old way, using pewter dishes for their meals and standing them on the dresser in a row when not in use.

One day, a man buying horses for the U. S. Government, heard that Magoon had a good horse he might sell. The buyer called at the little house and asked the man who came to the door his name.

## SHEEP IN 1840

A study of the Grand Lists in the various years of Wheelock's early growth shows the rapid increase in livestock of all kinds. By 1840 there were listed 4787 sheep raised in the town. Among the sheep raisers that year were Abraham Weeks, Samuel Weeks, Daniel Wheeler, S. F. Shattuck, Stephen Morgan, all with comparatively large flocks. Joseph Morrill, with 150 sheep; Samuel Bigelow, 114; and Meshach Darling (tenant on the William Curtis land), 105 sheep, were by far the largest owners.

## THE HUNTER

**WILL** stand the ensuing season at the stable of the Subscriber, in Burke, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in each week; will pass through Billymead to Capt. Weeks' in Wheelock, on Thursday, and the same evening will go to Col. Zifeld's—and on Saturday morning will leave Wheelock and go to Lyndon Corner. From thence to Burke the same day. The H. L. R. will be let to mares at two Dollars the leap, four Dollars the Season, and warrant as the parties may agree.

**GEORGE FYLER.**

*April 23, 1811.*

(*North Star*)

He got the customary answer, "Perka Magoona, by godda."

After buying the fine horse and paying Perkins \$100, the man was invited to dinner. He was somewhat surprised to see only potatoes and salt on the table.

The host, however, was naturally cordial. "Help yourself," he urged. "Help yourself to anything you like best." (*as told by Mrs. Daniel Gilman*)

## OXEN

Oxen were much in evidence in Wheelock from the earliest records. The Grand List of 1799 shows oxen numbering 79. By 1813 there were 159 and these were increased to 209 in 1832. Even as late as 1861, when the Farmers and Mechanics Association sponsored the second Lyndon Fair, "Wheelock and St. Johnsbury tied for third place in the parade of oxen from the various towns. Lyndon led with 140 yoke of oxen; Kirby followed with 40 yoke; and Wheelock and St. Johnsbury were not far behind," according to the *St. Johnsbury Caledonian* of Oct. 2, 1861.

## FARM TO LET.

**THE** Subscriber offers to let the **MORRILL Farm** in Wheelock, whereon are 100 acres under improvement, for one or more years, and put on a yoke or two of oxen and ten or fifteen cows. Any person desirous of taking it, will please to apply before the first of May.

**JOHN MATTOCKS.**

*Pracban, April 4, 1811.*

(*North Star*)

## Chapter XXXIV

# Mainly About Weather

*When that I was and a little tiny boy  
With a hey ho, the wind and the rain  
A foolish thing was but a toy  
For the rain it raineth every day  
. . . Twelfth Night, Shakespeare*

Probably the best remembered weather of these early times was in the "year of no summer" or eighteen-hundred-and-froze-to-death. This was 1816. In Wheelock a snow storm of several days duration in June destroyed all the farm crops. To avert famine, Erastus Fairbanks, the young store-keeper, sent teams to Boston to bring back rice in large quantities for the inhabitants.

Sept. 5, 1828 a freshet and flood in the area was recorded in the *Farmer's Herald* of St. Johnsbury.

### SNOW

Thomas Chandler, who lived near Chandler Pond, on property later included in Theodore N. Vail's Speedwell Farms and now occupied by Lucien Leroux, kept a diary record of weather. Some unusual snowstorms were:

June 11, 1842—Snowstorm  
Oct. 22, 1843—Snow fell six inches  
Sept. 29, 1844—Snow fell six inches  
May 1, 1844—Snow 18 inches deep  
May 17, 1847—Sugared off  
June 12, 1847—Snow drifts to be seen

### PARCHED EARTH

During June and July 1849 the area suffered a severe drought. The June 30 issue of the *St. Johnsbury Caledonian* carried the article:

### DRY WEATHER

At this writing the pastures and fields with us in drier locations begin to assume a yellow appearance.

### THE DROUGHT

July 7

About a week since we had a slight shower which wet the ground to the depth of  $\frac{1}{4}$  an inch. The earth is parched, the grass and some other crops (corn, perhaps excepted) suffer greatly and in our neighborhood there cannot possibly be  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a usual hay crop.

July 21

The drought has also extended to parts of Maine and Northern New Hampshire.

### COLD IN 1861

"Coldest ever witnessed or appears in the annals of history," wrote Stephen Mathewson Jones in his diary on January 13. Weather records at Fairbanks Museum of Natural Science in St. Johnsbury show an unofficial reading of 43 degrees below zero at 7 A. M. on January 13 and 45 degrees below zero at 7 A. M. on February 9.

### THOMAS CHANDLER'S WEATHER

Jan. 1, 1862—rained a little more than in Nov. and Dec. previous  
Jan. 14, 1862—snow 3 feet deep  
Jan. 20, 1862—snow fell 15 inches  
Feb. 10, 1862—snow fell 12 inches  
Feb. 19, 1862—snow fell 14 inches  
Feb. 24, 1862—snow fell 15 inches  
Mar. 15 & 16—snow fell 20 inches the largest drifts ever seen by the Oldest Man  
Mar. 20, 1862—snow 5 feet on the level  
Dec. 25, 1862—began to rain about 6 o'clock and rained hard until 3 o'clock in the morning of the 2nd day of Christmas  
April 30, 1863—National Fast. Very pleasant  
Mar. 10, 1864—Clear and warm. Went to Lyndon. A good deal bare ground  
June 10, 1864—Very cold with spits of snow  
Oct. 27-28, 1864—Fair at St. Johnsbury. Pleasant days  
Feb. 2, 1866—Started for Boston with Albert (Chandler) with two car loads of potatoes for the Weekses. Clear and pleasant all the time until the 12th, the day we got home, it rained all day.  
March 16, 1866—Warm and pleasant. Elder Hollis here and cleaned clock  
June 22, 1866—Very Warm. Calvin Bigelow raised a barn  
Nov. 10, 1866—Warm and pleasant. Went to the Hollow to meeting. Two women Baptized



Dec. 5, 1866—Cold. Went to the Hollow to Town Meeting. The town voted to raise \$1500 to defray expenses. Voted to fight the mountain road

1869—Very wet season

Oct. 5, 1869—Very heavy freshet, the highest water ever known, carried off all the bridges, but four, from E. M. Magoon's to Lyndon Corner

#### THE BIG FRESHET

The rain began to fall on Oct. 2, 1869 and continued through the 3rd, falling continuously for some thirty hours. A more detailed account in the *Vermont Union-Journal* states in later years:

The flood of Oct. 4, 1869 was the greatest ever known in this section up to that time. In Wheelock village the upper and lower bridges were carried away, also the Cree bridge. The water swept through the street furiously, damaging the road and buildings. The foundation of the gristmill, owned by Bradley & Mathewson, was nearly ruined. Some damage was done to S. Cree's machine shop. On the South Wheelock Branch every bridge was carried away, or much damaged, from the Stannard line down, these bridges being at H. Heath's, B. Odiorne, Sally Jones, John Powers, Horace Goss, and the Mountain School. The damage to the town was first estimated at \$5000.00, but when the flood had subsided and the streams returned to normal, a closer inspection was possible and showed that much salvage could be made from the bridges and property damaged, keeping the expense not far from \$1000. Building bridges was not as expensive a proposition in '69, the work being all done by local stonemasons and carpenters.

#### AGAIN THE DROUGHT

June 5, 1903—The cry of the farmers today is give us rain, give us rain.

The pastures and springs are drying up. Will this be like the drought of 1849?

June 19, 1903—Last Wednesday there was a terrible thundershower

(*Vermont Union-Journal*, Lyndonville, issues of date)

#### THE FLOOD OF 1927

In comparison with the general disaster throughout the state, it would appear from local newspaper accounts at that time that Wheelock did not suffer as severe damage as other towns, nor as it had in the Freshet of 1869. Millers Run and other tributaries of the Passumpsic rising within the town-

ship did, however, cause considerable havoc. The rain began early on the evening of November 2 and continued without let-up through the 3rd, with an extremely heavy downfall coming about 4 o'clock the second afternoon. By daylight on the 4th of November the flood waters were in full force, the crest of the Passumpsic reaching its highest point in Lyndonville between 12 and 1 o'clock Friday noon.

#### THERE IS A TIDE IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN

Brooks rose alarmingly by Thursday noon, Nov. 3, carrying away bridges in both Sheffield and Wheelock and making havoc with state roads over Stannard Mountain and Sheffield Heights, beside destroying many back roads.

At South Wheelock Thomas Hall moved his cows to higher land Friday at 2 o'clock in the morning, leading each cow, while his wife lighted his perilous way with a lantern.

Miss Beulah Keogh donned her bathing suit and swam around the cellar of her home to save the canned fruits and vegetables.

J. P. Rock's meadow farm was badly damaged.

The old Curtis Quimby carriage shop on the West Branch, now owned by W. H. Ackley, was swept away, as were all the bridges on Little York Street in Lyndon Center, save one.

In the Hollow, Millers Run rushed down the road at the head of the village past the mineral spring, undermining the sawmill and several houses, although none was moved from its foundation. It carried off a large amount of lumber and two bridges below the village.

Between Wheelock Hollow and Sheffield, the Run took a course in a gully 20 feet deep out of a splendid gravel road for more than 500 feet.

George Gray, who runs the Wheelock-Sheffield stage, missed only one day—Friday, the 4th—and carried mail twice daily thereafter as usual.

It was due to prompt and willing work that the route from St. Johnsbury to Newport was made available to mail and supply trucks, milk truck, and buses, which carried relief to the beleaguered Border City.

(*Lights and Shadows of the Vermont Flood of 1927*, Charles Walker, St. Johnsbury, 1928 pp. 35 and 36)

The Mountain School in South Wheelock was one of those listed in the state wide report of damaged schools after the flood. As late as December 8 reports from South Wheelock noted that "so much rain keeps the roads in terrible condition, especially for the mail carrier on Route 2." (*St. Johnsbury Republican*, Dec. 8, 1927)

## NEW ENGLAND HURRICANE

Sept. 21, 1938

*South Wheelock*

This vicinity was badly hit by the windstorm. The sugar places of Fred Hubbard, Hiram Park, John Crosier, Harley Deos, Martin Simon, George Stearns, and the Stearns brothers, James and Walter, and others were about ruined. Telephone poles and wires were flat in lots of places.

(*St. Johnsbury Republican*, Oct. 3, 1938)

Arthur Guild, 70, prominent cabinetmaker, dropped dead yesterday near his wood-working shop on the Lyndon-South Wheelock road from a heart attack induced by overexertion from repairing storm damage. His death is the only one in this area attributed to the hurricane. He died at the side of the road and his body was found by an unidentified passerby, who notified villagers, who in turn called Dr. R. L. Hill. He is survived by a sister, Cora.

(*St. Johnsbury Republican*, Sept. 26, 1938)



## Chapter XXXV

# Alarums and Excursions

### KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

An undated newspaper item from the collection of Mrs. Nellie Hoyt Gilman gives a new solution to this age-old social and financial problem:

In 1835 the Jones neighborhood in South Wheelock was the main point of business in town, though the Hollow had at that time grown large enough to be called a village and was the only locality in the town with a sufficient number of houses to deserve that title. But the Jones neighborhood had the town clerk and a number of other town officers and the stage from Stanstead, P. Q. to Haverhill, N. H. passed through the Jones locality, leaving the Hollow two miles east of the stage line. But the people at the Hollow succeeded in getting the post office away from William Bailey in the Jones neighborhood and transferring it to the Hollow, and the stage route, of course, followed it. The next year, 1836, the road was built from the Hollow to North Danville, passing through the Chandler Pond neighborhood, leaving Jones two miles off the line. A few years later the town offices were moved to the Hollow and, by degrees, the "village" aspirations of the Jones neighborhood were quieted.

The "village aspirations" may have been quieted, but not the wish to be "on the line." In 1878 William Henry Jones settled in the Chandler Pond neighborhood. On the popular mill site at the outlet of the pond, he rebuilt a sawmill, employed three men, and did custom sawing for at least ten years.

### THE FOUNT OF LEARNING

Just prior to 1860 there was considerable excitement and speculation about where the proposed County Institute would be located. Sheffield, Sutton, Lyndon and Wheelock were each being considered by the visiting committee, whose job it was to select a site. Every time the stage arrived from the south, those gathered at the Wheelock Hollow post office would ask Ambrose Hill, the stage driver, what he had heard along the way about the Institute. Finally, one day they had Ambrose's answer:

Lyndon Center's got the miserable thing,  
Sutton has the measles,  
Wheelock has the stinking spring,  
Pop go the weasels.

### THE SENSITIVE POLITICIAN

When Richard Stevens was elected town representative in 1846, the town voted all night for the candidates, Charles Rogers, Jr. and T. J. Cree. About daylight some began to vote for Stevens. Finally, nearly all voted for Stevens. He was much surprised and thought the voters were making fun of him. He protested that he was not going to Montpelier, but was teased into doing so. He was thought a bright man, but a bit "queer."

While serving in the Legislature, he took another man's coat by mistake and was accused of stealing. He explained to the man without success. The House passed a vote exonerating him, but he felt so badly he returned home, sick, and died Oct. 28, 1846, having served less than a month as Wheelock's representative.

Upon notice of his death, as presented to the House by Lucius Kimball of Lyndon, both the House and Senate adjourned on October 29 "until evening," out of respect to the deceased. His widow received his debenture, or money due him "for travel from Wheelock to the State House," plus per diem pay while he attended sessions.

*(Journal of the House, 1846, pp. 147 and 157)*

### THE MILLERITES' MILLENIUM

In 1843 the Millerites held a tent meeting near Stephen Willey's, in a high, open field on the road to Sutton. The end of the world had been predicted by Miller for Mar. 21, 1843 and, as in many other locations, the Wheelock converts had chosen a high spot on which to assemble and from which to be more easily transported to Heaven. Many had their ascension robes already made. At least one of the adherents "put in" no crops that year, saying, "I have enough to last me 'til the time comes." Another convert built stone wall all the spring season. Local Millerites numbered some twenty to thirty families, including Sulloways, Tiltons, and Hammonds. Converts were baptized in the "goose pond" near the old Samuel Allen place. Old Mrs. Willey being a large woman, it was found that the water in the pond was not deep enough to wet her

all over. One of the converts obligingly dipped up water with a tin dipper and threw it on her.

#### PIRATE TREASURE?

Quite a little excitement is caused by the finding of some old Spanish coins on the Marsh Way farm. Albert Orcutt, who lives there, thought he would plow up a piece of his pasture for a garden and unearthed two silver coins. They were so bright and perfect, it was thought there must be more. A continued search has revealed five pieces, all the same denomination but of different dates. The dates are 1723, 1753, 1783 and 1789, the fifth not being legible. . . . *St. Johnsbury Caledonian, July 19, 1899*

#### BRUIN TASTES THE SOUP

Capt. John Sherburn's first dwelling in Wheelock, after he had brought all his worldly goods on a handsled from Peacham to the farm he was clearing in 1800, was a log cabin, which had no doors, only a covering of cloth in the winter. One day, when Mr. Sherburn was away, a bear strolled into the cabin. Mrs. Sherburn and her children hurriedly sought shelter in the loft of the cabin, drawing the ladder up after them. The bear slowly looked about, finally poking his nose into a kettle of soup in the fireplace. The soup was so hot it burned the bear's nose. In quickly removing its nose, the visitor tipped over the kettle. The burn and the noise of the falling kettle caused him to leave in quite a hurry. . . . *J. B. Chase in The Shopper, St. Johnsbury, June 15, 1944.*

#### WHERE EVERY PROSPECT PLEASES

"Ahead is a steeper climb that leads to the Sherburn home. From here is one of the best views in this section. The Wheelock and Stannard Mountains are near neighbors and far to the east are the White Mountains. With the approach, the location and this view, the place appealed to me as an especially good one for a summer home," wrote J. B. Chase in *The Shopper*, St. Johnsbury, June 15, 1944.

It was at this place that Harley Sherburn clubbed his wife over the head in the midst of a quarrel over kindnesses she was showing the grandchildren. She tried to protect the top of her head with her hands, it is said, but they were badly mashed by the blows. He fled to the woods and was never seen again. She is buried in South Wheelock cemetery.

#### GOLD FEVER

No town was too remote to escape the contagion of the Forty-Niners and the Gold Rush. Even Wheelock lost two men to the West, Calvin Chase and P. Gerrish from the Hollow.

Calvin Chase, whose first claim had been at Park's Bar near Marysville, Calif., wrote home to Judge Cree on Feb. 11, 1860 from Forks of the Althouse Creek, Josephine County, Oregon:

Health verry good but partner poor all winter. Started in the fall in a good prospect and think when spring opens we will do well again . . . not much snow this winter but considerable rain. Last year at same time snow 15 feet deep . . . good partner, doesn't drink any whiskey . . . something very unusual in this country.

P. Gerrish's letters to Judge Cree were not so cheerful, however. He failed to make much of the gold mining but evidently found plenty of work in the San Francisco area. Tragedy was his lot. His boarding house burned down and he just managed to escape. At home his absence brought about divorce by his wife. His letters to the village legal advisor, Judge Cree, make sad and confused reading. (*Cree Family Papers*)

Those who stayed home looked for gold, too. Vermont was busy with prospectors. A gold mine was found in Sutton and another on the Sheffield-Wheelock line not far from the Mineral Spring road. Nothing ever came of these claims, however, except a lot of local speculation as to their probable worth.

Among Judge Cree's papers was an assay of copper "of promising richness" from the State Assayer's Office, Boston, Mass. This was dated February 1864 and signed A. A. Hayes, 16 Boylston Street. It is said that this deposit was on Wheelock Mountain, but remembering the false enthusiasm stirred up by the Assayer's analysis of the Wheelock Mineral Spring, it seems hardly worth starting to mine.

#### A BOLT FROM THE BLUE

Josiah Dow, locally known as Quaker Dow, lived near the Wheelock-Lyndon town line on the farm later occupied by Henry Hoffman. Dow was instantly killed by lightning as he was pitching on a load of hay. The lightning bolt melted the tine of his pitchfork, which was later displayed at the village store.



## Chapter XXXVI

# Reading Clubs and Libraries

The earliest records of the reading tastes of the inhabitants of Wheelock are found in the store accounts of Ward Bradley, where there is mention of *Spelling Books* in 1806, *Webster's Readers* and *The American Preceptor*. These were, of course, primarily school books but may well have been bought at the store for more careful reading, even by the adults, at home. If the Hoyt family thought enough of their father's account book, dating from 1756, to bring it along when they came from Canterbury, N. H. to Wheelock, it is reasonable to suppose that any books of sermons, essays, travel or poems may well have come with them, and other inhabitants, from their former homes.

### THE UNION LIBRARY—1825

Each member paid a small annual fee and had the privilege of taking out books for a limited time. The books were covered with leather firmly sewed on, with a hole at the back through which the title could be read. The books were cared for by Squire Bradley at his home, north of his store on the main street of the village.

The complete list of books available to readers follows:

Solitude Sweetened  
History of Josephus, 6 Vols.  
Economy of Human Life  
Pilgrim's Progress  
Bunyan's Holy War  
Baxter's Miscellanies  
Baxters' Saints' Rest  
Mrs. Waters' Life  
Life of Mrs. Bailey  
Life of Mrs. Newalls  
Life of Whitefield  
Whitefield's Sermons  
Frey's Narrative  
Thomas à Kempis  
Scott's Force of Truth  
Russian Campaigns  
Silliman's Travels, 2 Vols.  
Allen's Alarms

Life of General Eaton  
Goldsmith's History of  
Greece, 2 Vols.  
History of the American  
Revolution, 3 Vols.  
Smith, On the Prophecies  
Morse's Gazetteer, 2 Vols.  
Buchanan's Works  
Howe's Church History  
Life of Franklin  
Life of Spencer  
Cook's Voyages, 2 Vols.  
Life of John Colby  
Life of Mrs. Governor  
Ladies's Library  
Harriet in London  
Mourners  
Obeokiah

Life of Washington  
History of the United States  
Thatcher's Indian Wars,  
3 Vols.  
Life of Napoleon Bonaparte  
Robbin's Journal  
Life of Scott  
Manners & Customs, 2 Vols.  
Massilon's Sermons, 2 Vols.  
Ferguson's Astronomy  
(with plates)  
Shipwrecks (with plates)  
Harvey's Meditations  
Cowley and Shenstone  
Robertson's History of  
Scotland, 2 Vols.  
Riley's Narratives

Clark's Answers  
History of England  
Life of Jackson  
Life of Oliver Hazzard Perry  
Thompson's Late War  
Biglund's History of France  
Ancient Israelites  
Maunderell's Journey  
(with plates)  
Specimens of Russian Poets  
Belshazzar  
Russian Letters  
Essays on Taste, Alexander  
Gerard, also on the same  
subject by Voltaire,  
D'Alembert and  
DeMontesquieu.

Zelotes Hosmer, former clerk for Erastus Fairbanks in Wheelock, must have purchased some of these books in Boston, where he was working. He sent the bill for them to Squire Bradley Oct. 25, 1825.

1 Essay on Taste	.35
1 Maunderell's Journey, plates	.45
1 Ferguson's Astronomy, plates	.45
1 Specimen Russian Poets	.35
1 Shipwreck, plates	.50
1 Belshazzar	.20
1 Harveys Meditation (2 vol. in one)	.40
1 Cowley & Shenstone	.60
1 Russian Letters	.50

\$3.80

### WHEELOCK LIBRARY

"In March 1897 the town voted to establish a free public library and in September received 112 books from the State. There is another library in town, called the Wheelock Library Assn. They own about 350 books which they have loaned to the Free Library and undoubtedly will, sooner or later, donate them. Circulation last year, 420. Librarian, Rev. E. J. Hatch." (from the report of the State Library Commission in the Dec. 14, 1898 issue of the St. Johnsbury Caledonian)

## Chapter XXXVII

# Celebrations and Dedications

In the long history of Wheelock there were many occasions when special events were memorialized. June Training Day and January First, when the president of Dartmouth College, or his agent, came to collect the rents, were annual town holidays. The Fourth of July was celebrated yearly with almost religious devotion. Or at least the initial part of the observance was devotional, even though the later demonstrations were more worldly.

### THE ISRAELITES REJOICE

One of the earliest public accounts of the Fourth of July celebration in Wheelock is found in the *North Star* for July 18, 1812, entitled,

#### *Communication Celebration at Wheelock*

On the 4th instant, the citizens of Wheelock and some from neighboring towns convened to celebrate the joyful anniversary of American Independence at the dwelling house of Col. EDWARD FIFIELD. A procession formed at 11 o'clock under the direction of Col. Fifield, Marshal of the day, which was escorted by a company of militia with martial music to the meeting-house, where an excellent sermon was preached by Elder BENJ. PAGE, from Judges V, 11, with the Declaration of Independence read, and an appropriate and patriotic oration delivered by SAMUEL FELLOWS, Jun., Esq., which did honor to the orator and the occasion. The exercises at the meeting-house were concluded by prayer, and the procession returned to Col. Fifield's, where a hollow square was formed and seventeen toasts read by the orator, which were severally saluted by a volley of musketry—After the services of the day were closed, such as chose proceeded into the hall and partook of an excellent repast prepared for the occasion. "At the going down of the sun," the flag was struck and every citizen retired to his home satisfied with the proceedings and rejoicing in our goodly heritage and the singular bounties of Heaven to this his modern Israel.

After being host and marshal for this celebration, Col. Edward Fifield served on the committee on arrangements for the Caledonia County Republican Meeting held in St. Johnsbury the following Mon-

day, July 6, 1812, to again celebrate American Independence. (*North Star, Danville, issue of same date*) This rally is described in detail on pages 165-166 in *Town of St. Johnsbury*, by Rev. E. T. Fairbanks, St. Johnsbury 1914.

### JUNE TRAINING DAY

This event took place in each town in the state on the first Tuesday in June. Setting out a parade ground was one of the important matters in establishing a town. At the second town meeting in Wheelock, March 11, 1793, a committee of three, Dudley Sweasey, Abraham Morrill and Thomas Noyes, was entrusted with this matter.

There is some question as to exactly where they planned the first parade ground. Some sources infer that it was directly across the road from the old meeting-house; others, that it was in back of Fifield's tavern, further north along the same County road.

The purpose of Training Day was to review the local militia. From a contemporary humorous description of the day, as found in the *North Star* for Nov. 7, 1812, it is evident that the "review" was somewhat short on military alertness and was considered more of a holiday by all concerned.

In Wheelock during his boyhood, Ferd Chase recalled, the local organization was called the Rifle Company. Its uniform was a green frock coat with white belt, white trousers, and a glazed leather cap with large visor and white plume. "Drummer Miles, a quite aged man, on June Training Day would amuse the boys by tossing drum sticks in the air, catch them, and not miss a beat. Horace Silver, the fifer, would use a reed and smoke his pipe at the same time. With Uncle Sam Allen, who had been an officer, and Judge Conner, they made a beautiful quartet when fairly pickled . . . and they usually got so when they met." Other musicians were Paul Gerrish, bugler; William Chase, fifer; Alvin Connor and Ben Meserve, snare drummers; and John Meserve, who beat the big, blue bass drum. This annual holiday brought out a crowd that taxed the hotel at meal times, Mr. Chase recalled.



After the review, athletics were indulged in. Wrestling was the favorite sport of nearly all the young men in town. This included mainly "collar-and-elbow," with side "holts" and some back "holts." John Connor, the Gray boys and all the Chandlers almost always took part, with the last "oftener winning than losing." Tradition has it that Warren Bradley, a slight youth, threw Zeke Miles, a broad-shouldered six-footer, using a "cross-toe trip." It all happened so quickly that Zeke could never explain it satisfactorily, even to himself.

#### TURKEY SHOTS

Wheelock Hollow always had two turkey shoots before Thanksgiving, in Ferd Chase's time. Contestants shot at a live bird which stood on a box at a distance of sixty rods. The first to draw blood won the bird. The fee was ten cents a shot. Muzzle loading rifles were used and every man had his own bullet mold for making his bullets.

One year there was a turkey shoot in progress on the meadow below the village graveyard. Some family had just had a death and they came to town to bury in a lot near the back fence bordering the field. They had prayer. But the moment the coffin was lowered in the grave, all the men in the mourning families jumped the fence and ran down the hill to join the fun.

#### JANUARY FIRST

The other town holiday was the first day of each new year when Dartmouth College collected the rents. In the early days, January First was probably more of a business day. President John Wheelock sometimes came for the weighing of the grain, in which the rents were paid. After the storehouse was built near the meetinghouse in 1807 rents were collected there. In 1814 rents were collected at "Capt. Weeks's in the Hollow."

"Spirits" no doubt contributed to the sense of holiday and, after the rents were paid, wrestling and other sports, such as lifting stiff heels, pulling sticks, jumping, pitching quoits, and old fashioned round-ball were the order of the day. As on June Training Day, the holiday often closed with dancing at the Brick Tavern, with Martin Doyle helping Noah Dean with the fiddling.

#### JULY FOURTH CELEBRATION AT WHEELOCK HOLLOW 1861

The patriots of this and neighboring towns gathered the 4th to celebrate the day in some appropriate manner. Hon. Wm. Chase and Capt. Horace Drown were appointed marshals of the day. A procession formed which marched to the grounds selected and there 'flung to the breeze' a beautiful flag 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, with three hearty cheers for the Stars and Stripes. The procession then marched to the grove of Mr. Sulloway, where they listened to prayer by Rev. Jonathan Woodman; the Star Spangled Banner and America by the choir; an address by T. J. Cree, Esq.; a reading of the Declaration of Independence by H. S. Bickford; an oration by Rev. Woodman and a patriotic speech by Mr. Alfred Lamb of Sheffield. The people assembled then proceeded to the tables, which were bountifully laden with all that could be desired. After the repast, there was the usual winding up of toasts, cheers, salutes, etc., when the crowd dispersed to their homes well satisfied with the manner in which the day was spent.

. . . *St. Johnsbury Caledonian, July 12, 1861*

#### A NOTABLE OCCASION

##### *The Tree Planting in Wheelock at the Home of Frances E. Willard's Father*

A unique and interesting service was held at Wheelock Monday under the auspices of the Vermont Women's Christian Temperance Union, when trees were planted in memory of Miss Frances E. Willard's father and mother at her father's birthplace.

The Willard farm is situated about a mile and one-half above the little village of Wheelock on a hill overlooking a great extent of country. Notwithstanding the severe heat of the day, about 500 people gathered at the site of the old house where Josiah F. Willard was born, among the number being many relatives from Wheelock, Barton and Sheffield.

Mrs. Ida F. Read, President of the Vermont Women's Christian Temperance Union, had charge of the exercises and many of the leading White Ribboners were there.

After the singing, Mrs. Hannah J. Bailey of Maine, world and national W. C. T. U. Superintendent of the Department of Peace and Arbitration, read the 1st Psalm. This was followed by an original poem by Mrs. Keith of Worcester, Mass., State Superintendent of Railroad Work. Miss Anna A. Gordon, Vice-President-at-large of National W. C. T. U. fol-



lowed, with an address entitled, "A Glance Backward." In this she gave delightful reminiscences of the Willard family.

Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens, President of the National W. C. T. U., gave a closing address upon the theme, "A Look Ahead" and her words were an inspiration to all present.

Fine specimens of the native pine were then set in place, many hands assisting, hands of the aged as well as those of little children using the shovels. On the tree planted for Mr. Willard, Miss Gordon hung a wreath of cedar tied with white ribbon. When the tree in memory of Madame Willard was planted, Mrs. Stevens said, "While Madame Willard's character was strong and rugged like the pine, it was also beautiful and fragrant as the flowers."

The doxology was then sung, after which the large gathering adjourned to the maple grove nearby for a lunch provided by members of the Grange and other friends in the vicinity. The musical part of the programme was greatly helped by the presence of an organ and cornet solos by F. E. Winslow of Lyndon.

This beautiful service at Wheelock recalls a similar service at Madame Willard's home in North Danville two summers ago, when Miss Willard was present and took such a leading part in the exercises. It had been her desire to have a similar service at her father's birthplace and this resulted in the gathering on Monday. . . . *St. Johnsbury Caledonian Wednesday, Aug. 23, 1899*

#### DEDICATION OF THE SOLDIERS MONUMENT MEMORIAL DAY MAY 29, 1915

As described in the Boston Globe, the occasion of presenting the monument on the 50th anniversary of the close of the War of the Union was like this:

If any town should honor the memory of her soldier dead it is this little town which sent eighty-six men, or one tenth of her entire population of 835, to fight for the Union.

Today such a monument was dedicated, thanks to the generosity of Ferd Chase, for many years proprietor of the Loon Lake (N. Y.) House. Mr. Chase is a native of Wheelock and lived here until manhood. Last fall he had the foundation laid for the monument and this spring it was set. It is made of Barre granite and weighs twelve tons. It stands eight feet high. On the front is inscribed "Lest We Forget. Erected 1915. In memory of those men who enlisted from Wheelock in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865." On the reverse side are the names of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers and on the sides the names of the privates.

Of the eighty-six who went out from Wheelock, thirty did not return, three died in Andersonville and one on Belle Isle. Only three survivors now live in town. (*S. G. Cree, Clement Gray and Rodney Orcutt*)

The exercises of unveiling and dedication were held this morning at 9:30 at the grove, with the following program: Assembly sounded by musicians; reading of Scriptures; prayer; unveiling of the monument; recall sounded by musicians from the door of the church; speeches. The speakers were the donor of the monument, Mr. Chase, who enlisted in the 6th Vermont; Judge William H. Taylor of Hardwick, a native of Wheelock and now on the Vermont Superior Court; Principal O. D. Mathewson of Lyndon Institute and also a native of Wheelock; and Hon. W. P. Dillingham, U. S. Senator from Vermont.

Mr. Chase also placed a boulder in the village cemetery with a tablet marking the grave of Samuel Follett, a veteran of the War of 1812, and a tablet on the headstone of Benjamin Carter, a soldier of both the Revolution and the War of 1812.

#### WHEELOCK EXPRESSES GRATITUDE

March 2, 1915

Resolution adopted by the voters of the Town of Wheelock in Town Meeting this day assembled:

#### RESOLVED:

That the Town sincerely thanks Mr. Ferd W. Chase for the gift of the beautiful Soldiers' Monument erected in memory of the men who enlisted from this town and served in the Civil War, and it is gratefully accepted.

#### Resolved:

That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk to Mr. Chase.

Wheelock, Vt. March 2, 1915

A true copy

Attest: Alma Welch Grady  
Town Clerk



SOLDIERS MONUMENT



DEDICATION OF THE MILLSTONE MEMORIAL TO  
SOLDIERS OF REVOLUTION AND WAR OF 1812  
MAY 30, 1916

*Program*

Buglecall to assemble at Gristmill

Scripture Reading

Prayer

Address and Presentation Judge W. H. Taylor

Acceptance in behalf of the Town

Vocal and Instrumental music by local talent

The Wheelock correspondent to the *St. Johnsbury Republican* of June 7, 1916 described the event thus:

A large crowd was present notwithstanding the bad day. An excellent dinner was served at Mechanics hall by the V. I. S. to which the crowd did ample justice. Then followed the dedication of the marker at the west end of the village, a bronze plate on the face of the oldest millstone that had been used in the gristmill, bearing the names of the Revolutionary soldiers and those of the War of 1812; also the beautiful Kiosk built over the sulphur spring, the generous gift of Ferd W. Chase of Loon Lake, N. Y., a former Wheelock boy, will be always prized by the people of Wheelock.



MECHANICS HALL

WHEELOCK HONORS HER RETURNED SOLDIERS  
MAY 1919

The returned soldiers were given a reception at the church last week Monday evening. A large company were out, filling the church. The exercises were opened by prayer by Rev. Mr. Stewart of Sheffield. An address was given by Supt. Martin Daniels of Lyndonville, followed by Prof. O. D. Mathewson, also of Lyndonville, both Wheelock boys. Some of the returned soldiers spoke. Walter Buckley gave an interesting account of his experience in France. Mr. Buckley was severely wounded

by shell; Eugene St. Louis also gave a short talk. Refreshments were served in the town hall near the church.—*St. Johnsbury Republican Wednesday, May 28, 1919*

REDEDICATION OF THE STONE STEP AT THE  
WILLARD PARK SHRINE  
OCTOBER 1, 1941

Seldom has the town of Wheelock had a more notable public ceremony than on Thursday afternoon on the occasion of the pilgrimage from Orleans of the 75 delegates attending the annual W. C. T. U. convention to Willard Park, the hilltop shrine where the father of Frances E. Willard was born and lived. History repeats itself, for the old stone doorstep, of the house now long out of the picture, was dedicated 41 years ago, but without a marker. Now the marker was also dedicated in the presence of more than 100 interested spectators and accepted by the Governor of Vermont, William H. Wills. The sky was clear, the autumn foliage in its most brilliant hue and, from the little spot surrounded by a wire fence, there was a most extensive view of northern Caledonia County.

After the bugle sounded and the musicians led the audience in "America," the State W. C. T. U. president, Mrs. Nettie B. S. Kidder of Irasburg, introduced Ozias D. Mathewson, Principal of Lyndon Institute, who gave an historical sketch of the Willard family.

The Willard families of this area were descended from Major Simon Willard (1604-1676), a Kentish soldier and early pioneer in New England. From him was descended Rev. Elijah Willard of Harvard, Mass., who after two years as chaplain in the Revolutionary War, was a Baptist minister in Dublin, N. H. for forty years. Two of his fourteen children, Elijah, Jr. and Oliver Atherton, came from Dublin to Wheelock and to the hill farm in 1805.

Oliver Atherton Willard's oldest son, Josiah Flint Willard was born in Wheelock in the house which formerly stood on the spot of the shrine. He later migrated to the west, where he met and married Mary Thompson Hill, who had also moved to the west with her parents, John and Mary (Thompson) Hill, formerly of North Danville. His daughter, Frances E. Willard, was born in Churchville, N. Y. Sept. 28, 1830 and died in New York City Feb. 18, 1898. President of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union in 1874, she formed the

World W. C. T. U. in 1883, becoming its president in 1888.

In 1897 Miss Willard, with her secretary, Miss Anna Gordon, came to North Danville and planted trees about her mother's birthplace and organized an association to perpetuate her memory. While on this trip, she also came to Wheelock, visiting the hilltop site of her father's birthplace and planned for a similar dedication the following year. Her death prevented this being carried out, but in 1899 the site was given to a branch of the W. C. T. U. by Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Aldrich, then owners of the former Willard farm. On August 25, 1899 the site was dedicated as Willard Park in accordance with Miss Willard's wishes. Her secretary, Miss Gordon, attended, as did the national president of the W. C. T. U., Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens. At that time several pine trees were planted by Mr. Aldrich, of which two are still standing (1959).

At the 1941 ceremony, when dedicating the plaque, Mrs. Ida B. Wise Smith, National President of the W. C. T. U. stated that, "had there been more fathers of his strong convictions, yet tender and loving, there would have been more daughters like Frances Willard."

Gov. W. H. Wills accepted the plaque in the name of the state of Vermont.

Rev. Miss Wilson, pastor of the Wheelock Church, offered a prayer of thanks. Other residents of town at the occasion included Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Aldrich, Mr. Meserve, Mr. Cree and Mr. R. C. Bickford.

In recalling his boyhood remembrance of Miss Willard, O. D. Mathewson said, "I saw Miss Willard when she visited her cousin, Elijah Willard who lived in Wheelock village, just south of the brick hotel. I well remember the impression which she made upon the people of the village as she and Elijah, with

his wife, Betsey, slowly meandered their way to the mineral spring. She was thoroughly democratic. I see her now in the old store, standing at the end of the counter leaning on a pile of unbleached cotton, while she talked pleasantly with Frank Taylor, the storekeeper, about people whom they knew and of incidents which had happened since she last visited Elijah. I recall one occasion when she spoke in the village church.

"Miss Willard was always deeply touched by the wholesome life of the Wheelock people with whom she came in contact. In September 1897 she wrote Mrs. W. J. Aldrich . . . 'Would you be kind enough to write me as many reasons as you can think of why you are never lonesome on that isolated farm without neighbors or children? I was much impressed by your good cheer and thought I could make your experience useful to other women . . . keeping your personality private if you so desired'."

Mrs. Aldrich wrote, and received this in reply: "I thank you very much for your admirable letter and mean to have it in the *UNION SIGNAL*, where it will do no end of good to 'our folks.' Your outlook upon life is the only true one and it impressed me so much in the few minutes I saw you that I resolved to ask what was its inspiration" . . .

In explaining the location of the original Willard house, O. D. Mathewson said, it was moved from the hilltop and down to the Elijah Willard farm place where it formed the ell. It was called the "old shop" and used for all kinds of farm tools and the grindstone. The original house contained a living room, or kitchen, a bed room, a pantry, and an open attic, similar in arrangement to other houses in the neighborhood in the early days.

The *Vermont Union-Journal's* account of the rededication concludes with, "a delightful tea was served by the ladies of the Wheelock church in the town hall following the hilltop pilgrimage."



## Chapter XXXVIII

# Prices Current

"It is hard to realize how prices have changed in a hundred and fifty years. It is difficult, too, to make comparisons accurately in the case of manufactured articles," wrote O. D. M. When Theophilus Folsom charged a dollar for a "coffin," it would not have been the same as a modern casket, although both served the same purpose. Some may think that one dollar was the regular price, but in 1820 he made five coffins for Jonathan Folsom, Jr., for which he charged him \$1; \$1.25; \$1.34; \$1.50 and \$.75 respectively.

It would be interesting to see the "Clock Case" he made in 1822 for Elisha Sanborn for \$7; the "beauro" in 1820 for Asa Leavitt for \$8; the "Chist of drars" in 1821 for Henry Gray for \$5; the "bedsted" in 1821 for Philip Mathewson for \$2; the "Spit boxes" for Dr. Frederick Leavenworth for \$.34, and the "Cake Bord" for Mary Berry for \$.08.

Farm products sold in 1820-1825 as follows: potatoes at \$.25 a bushel; wheat at \$1 a bushel; oats, \$.25 a bushel; hay, \$4 to \$5 a ton; apples, 1 shilling a bushel; beans, \$1 a bushel; salt pork \$.12½ a pound, and beef, \$.04 a pound.

In March 1825 Samuel Fellows, Jr. received \$7.35 for 210 cedar rails. This gives some idea of what it cost to build the old rail fences that in rare cases still border old Vermont roads. The usual price of labor at that time was \$1 per day.

One hundred and fifty years ago folks lived by drinking almost as much as by eating. The retail prices of liquors in 1822 were: whiskey, 17 to 19 cents a pint; West Indies rum, 18 cents a pint; New England rum, 12 cents a pint; West Indies rum (high), 36 cents a pint; wine, 56 cents a pint; brandy, 28 cents a pint; cider, \$2 a barrel.

### LAND VALUES

It is hard to determine the values, all land being originally lease land. Unimproved land sold from one to two dollars per acre. Farms of about 100 acres brought from \$500 to \$1500. Probably \$1000 bought a good farm in 1820.

### DOCTOR'S BILLS

In 1825 Dr. Pangborn of St. Johnsbury charged Squire Bradley for "doctoring" Charlotte, a girl of sixteen:

Apr. 25	vist. & med., salts, Bleeding	\$ .50
Apr. 27	vist. made	.50
Apr. 28	Do Do	.50
Apr. 29	Do Do	.50
Apr. 30	Do Do	.50
May 1	Do Do	.50
May 2	Do Do	.50
May 3	Do Do	.50
	Pills	.13
	Bitters	.17

\$4.30

In 1828 Dr. Leavenworth had a bill of \$15.28 against the Town of Wheelock for doctoring the town poor. It contained twenty-six items, among which were:

Aug. 7	To visit, dressing shoulder and medicine	\$1.00
9	To vis. & dressing, etc.	.50
Oct. 8	To visit, dressing arm, etc.	.50
10	To vis., lance sore, etc.	.67

This bill was allowed by Samuel Bigelow and John Chase, auditors.

### HIRING OUT

It would seem from account books found in the Mathewson Papers, that most farmers kept diaries in which they listed sales, purchases, weather, items of family or town interest. Some made note of terms of agreement with their hired men. One condition, stipulated by the hired man, was that salmon was not to be served oftener than twice a week.

One hired man, or boy, conscientiously kept track of "time lost":

Began work for Sim Shattuck April 17  
April the 15 lost one half day agoying to training  
May the 21 lost one half day agoying to training  
Lost one half days work agoying to Dow's Raising

Lost from three o'clock to night agoying to  
 schoolmeeting  
 July the 17 lost one half days work Bying land  
 July the 28 lost one half day looking of land  
 August the 10 lost one day a settling with Car-  
 ter for land  
 August the 26 Lost from morning to Breakfirst  
 time a ploying land for Scot  
 August the 29 Lost time over agoying up to  
 Bean's for Leather  
 September the 7 Lost two thirds of one after-  
 noon mesherin Land for Scot and highered  
 Shad and was to pay him in Leather  
 September the 9 Lost one half day agoying to  
 the singing  
 September the 12 Lost one day agoying to  
 training in Lyndon  
 September the 27 Lost one hour and a half  
 agoying to Will Jones to Raising  
 September 27 Lost one half day agoying after  
 steers

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Jan. 12, 1798 Abner Hoyt, journey to  
 Johnsbury on Business for  
 Dr. Wm. Guy \$ .60  
 1806 Corn a bushel .75  
 1806 Wheat a bushel \$1-\$1.17  
 1806 Samuel Miles, day's work in June .50  
 1806 Thomas Hoyt, to "waying" wheat  
 2 days pd .by Pres. Wheelock 1.50  
 1808 Jonas Sprague 1 saddle 1.00  
 1809 John Miles to the horse to Lyndon .17  
 1814 oxen and plough one day .50  
 1816 "one chist" of Thomas Hoyt 1.50  
 Apr. 30, 1824 Joshua Gray left 34 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs.  
 Clover Seed for Ward Bradley  
 to sell at a lb. .12  
 Jan. 1828 by taking potatoes out of  
 the suler .34  
 Apr. 1828 George Kimball one day  
 breaking flax .50  
 1843 weaving 24 yds. cloth 2.00  
 weaving a shawl .62

Oct. 1845 30 sheep 20.00  
 1864 Butter, 50 cts. a pound; Potatoes, 50 cts. a  
 bushel; Oats, 85 cts. a bushel; sugar, 20 cts.  
 lb.; Hogs drest, 16 cts. a pound; Beef, 8  
 and 9 cts. per lb.; Taxes, \$5.70 on the  
 dollar of the Grand List.  
 1863 6 gals. soap, \$1.00; 5 lbs. candles, .84; 1  
 bushel oats, .40; pasturing cow, \$2.00;  
 1 day building chimney, .75.  
 1875 2 bushels potatoes, \$.34  
 1875 W. B. Jones, South Wheelock to  
 St. Johnsbury via team \$2.00  
 1 bottle Sarsaparilla 1.00  
 54 butter tubs of Gee 21.40  
 1893 Cows at \$30-\$36 a head; sheep, \$2-\$2.75;  
 horse, \$27-\$58; yearling heifer, \$8; hay,  
 \$8.50-\$9.75 per ton.  
 Feb. 27, 1903 Installation of officers at I. O. G. T.  
 Thurs. evening of this week. This will be  
 a public meeting and they will serve an  
 oyster supper at 25 cts. each.  
 1944 Cows at \$120-\$160 per head



## Chapter XXXIX

# To Turn A Hand

*"There is no kind of thing in the 'versal world but  
what you can turn your hand to" . . . . Cervantes*

The picture of a boy preparing for manhood in the years 1858-1861 in Wheelock grows out of this day book of Stephen Jones. With his brothers, Henry and Daniel, he soon after took part in the War of the Union, which marked a growing-up of a nation as well as a testing of its citizens. Stephen was 16 at the time of the first entry in his book,

### *Lyndon and Wheelock*

I have this, the 5th day of Apr. 1858, made the purchas of this book which cost .25

This the 6th day of April is cloudy and muddy, the snow is most gon.

This is the 9th day snowed in the morning and I spoke a piece.

### MAY

This is the 1st of May we gathered Buckets.

This is the 20th began to plant corn

This is the 27th finished planting potatoes

This is the 31st Father went over the moun't to fix road.

### JUNE

This is the 2nd is pleasant had a Donation to Rev. Wm. Merrill's. Donated eight Dollars Ebben raised a Wood Shed.

This the 3rd is warm picked roots

This the 4th is sunny Quarterly Meeting commenced

This the 5th warm and pleasant went fishing.

7th washed sheep

8th, Eleven Pigs made Fence

11th commenced to hoe potatoes

12th split rails

13th caught seventy-five fish

### 1859

Apr. 25. is warm made fence on Brainard place

26th gathered buckets

27th drewed Sugar wood

28th commenced painting the house

30th painted

May 14 Organized Bible Class

22nd SelectMen met

24th Town Meeting

### DECEMBER

Commenced teaching School the 12th of December at the Emmerson District (district No. 1), first of Wheelock

New Year's Ball at C. Clements Hall Whole bill \$1

Our school commenced the 12th of December Romanzo Quimby He kept three weeks and then gave it up Henry after took the school

Father went to Montpelier to represent the town of Wheelock 1859 and was elected selectman of Wheelock 1858 and Superintendent for the same year.

This 18th Lost 4 Days of School December on account of sickness

Rev. Nelson preached at the meeting house, this the 27, 28 & 29th.

Evening Quarterly Meeting at Wheelock Hollow.

### 1860

We had an exhibition this 9th day of Mar. 1860

Daniel went away the 12th of this month

Craven preached the Sabbath

Commenced plowing this the 26th day of April 1860 Story came to preach

Finished Spring's work this the 22nd of May

This is the 29th of August Fair Rev. Story commenced a school at the Magoon schoolhouse. I attended some 8 weeks

Nov. 1860 Samuel Nelson elected to represent the town. Republican. We boys met at the Magoon schoolhouse & organized a Lyceum, in which I was chosen Scribe.

Nov. 12 Henry went to Barton to work I plastered the schoolhouse William B. Jones & Nathaniel Elkins

Nov. 18 rainy, snow is some two inches deep Rev. Story baptized 4 at the bridge and 6 the week before

Nov. 26 Drove 3 heifers to St. Johnsbury

Nov. 27 warm & rainy

Nov. 28 Snow 6 inches deep Had a sleigh ride some 3 miles

Nov. 29 Pleasant Banked up house, day appointed by Gov. as Thanksgiving A Ball at Wheelock Hollow I attended A surprise party at Mr. Young's

Dec. 18 . . . . before Mr. Bickford, superintendent of common schools Received a certificate and also attended a dancing school

Dec. 19 Commenced my school at the Magoon District hired with Daniel Wheeler, committee, at the rate of 13 & 1/2 Doll's per month

This is the 25 or Christmas

### 1861

Jan. 13th the coldest ever witnessed or appears in the annals of history.

Jan. 24th Rev. Bachelor preached at the meetinghouse and on the same evening gave a lecture on Heathonism accompanied by a Panorama of the same

March Mr. Rofs's school closed. He locked the boys out & in return they fastened the doors he being obliged to climb through the window. He is the first teacher in the schoolhouse in this, the 6th District of Wheelock

My School closed the 16 of March at Dis. No. 7 of Wheelock. Had a spelling school in the evening on account of sickness (for a fortnight) it was quite late.

*Lyndon March 18, 1861*

Came here to school (*Lyndon Academy founded 1831*) Room at John Miller's "Passing" \$4 . . . .

Henry Chase, Principal

Hiram H. Steele, teacher of Mathematics

Ada Chase, teacher of French and Geography

(Henry Chase, a graduate of Yale College had formerly been a lawyer in Illinois. His sister, Miss Ada Chase, was a graduate of Mount Holyoke Seminary.)

May 11 Attended a walk proposed by the school of this institute to the "Great Falls" In the evening attended an interview at Chase Hall.

July, The Fourth Went to St. Johnsbury for to see the Regiment which was stationed at the Fair Ground and was known as Camp Baxter. It was estimated that 10,000 people were present; saw the presentation of the Regimental flag and quite a military display was holden at the Hollow, a fine celebration and picnic. Rev. Jonathan Woodman delivered an oration followed by other smart speeches, declarations, toasts, etc.

Aug. 4th Attended church at, or in, this place. Rev. Theophilus Drew delivered a sermon

Got in 4 load of hay

This is the 19th worked for Daniel Wheeler

20th the same

This is the 21st rainy; cut seed grass

22nd shaving shingles

23rd worked for D. W.

26th attended church at home

27th Started for musical convention at St. Johnsbury. Went on foot to Lyndon, then mounted the cars, the fare being half price which was 25 cts for both ways; had a pleasant ride; arrived at St. J. about 10 A. M. The convention was holden at the South Church which was free of charge the first half day but afterwards circulated tickets 50 cts each for the term of the convention, being four days. took our abode (S. O. Elkins, Henry, Wm. Hart, I. M. Hubbard) at C. F. Harvey's price 50 cts per day. 400 present.

Aug. 28th The second day of the convention. The attendance is better; find it interesting and instruction good

Aug. 29th Yesterday there was holden a county union convention at the town hall in St. Johnsbury. The musical convention is well attended; house full; some were crowding the gallery; concert in the evening

Aug. 30th Convention still increases. This evening there was a concert which I did not attend. I was informed that there were present more than was accommodated

Aug. 31 Boarded barn

Sept. 1st Attended Quarterly Meeting at North Danville. Congregation large. Rev. Henderson in the forenoon Rev. Woodman in afternoon

Sept. 2nd Boarded barn. Rev. Story opened school in this district having 12 children. Attended election and learnt there were 11 candidates in the 1st Ballot; 2nd, 6; 3rd, 4; 5th, 3. Charles Rogers, Jr. was elected Representative, he having 79; Thomas Cree, 71; Calvin Chase, 1, which was cast for him at every ballot.

Sept. 3rd drawn boards from saw mill; put some on barn

Sept. 7th Commenced shingling barn, also commenced harvesting by mowing oats.

Sept. 9th commenced reaping wheat. Henry helpt raise a sawmill on the Mt. stream.

Sept. 11th made shingle and painted window sash for new barn

12 Reaped wheat. I went on purpose of getting subscriptions for singing school. Succeeded in getting \$1.50

This 14th reaped wheat fixed pool for baptism



- 15th attended church also Rev. Story performed a baptism ordinance for me.
- 17th finished cutting wheat; shingles; also there is a fair holden at St. Johnsbury to-day.
- 21st went to mill at Hollow. There was a war meeting at the meeting house. Judge Cree made a Patriotic speech, followed by C. H. Davis & Chas. Rogers for the purpose of getting enlistments for the 6th Regiment for this state, of which he, Mr. C. H. Davis is Recruiting Officer. Got 8 in this town.
- 23rd Cloudy and cold. Attended church in the schoolhouse opposite the meeting house the reason of which was there were no stoves in the meeting house & the weather being cold were obliged to have fire.
- 25th dug 35 Bushels potatoes; got in 5 loads wheat and 2 loads oats
- 26th dug 23 bushels potatoes; got in 6 loads wheat and 2 loads oats.
- 27th Very pleasant. Shingled barn, I, in the afternoon, attended a meeting at the meeting house for the purpose of invoking of the Lord in behalf of the country, as this is a day set apart by the president as a national fast. Daniel dug 14 bushels of potatoes
- 28th Dug 38 bushels of potatoes
- 29th Dug 48 bushels of potatoes

Wheellock, April 16th Father is now owing me on acct. of money borrowed \$25.00  
 School District No. 6 owing for teaching school winter 1864 \$55.00  
 Paid - 23.00

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\$32.00

(Owing Mother for money borrowed 1.00  
 Money borrowed—Mother 1.25)

*Exenditures while at Lyndon Academy 1858*

June 6	To Board Spring Term 1858	\$15.75
June 6	3 Pins	.03
June 6	Postage stamp	.03
July 7	To 1 Pr. Suspenders	.15
	" 1 Fur Hat black	2.00
July 10	" qr. lb. Candy	.08
July 12	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ yds. Cotton cloth	6.28
July 20	To 1 Pocket Comb	.01
July 20	" 1 qr. lb. Candy	.05
Aug. 20	" 2 Collars	.24
Aug. 24	" 1 Singing Book	.27
Sept. 23	" 1 yd. $\frac{1}{2}$ flannel	.60
Sept. 23	" 1 Trunk	2.10
Nov. 20	" 1 Overcoat	5.00
Nov. 20	" 1 Dictionary	.75
Nov. 20	" Progressive Fourth Reader	.75
Dec. 23	" Tuition, Fall Term 1858	2.20
Dec. 23	" Ambrotype	.15
Mar. 12 '60	" 1 Silk Handkerchief	.50
Mar. 12	" 1 Scarf	.30
Apr. 8	" 1 Violin String	.10
May 1	" 1 Straw Hat	.25
July 4	Candy	.60

## Chapter XL

# Wheelock in the War of the Union

*They offered their lives for what they thought was  
right . . . Abraham Lincoln*

To many who read this account of Wheelock it would seem that the period of 1861 to 1865 shows the town and its people in their finest hour. For nearly twenty years they had been listening to the anti-slavery sermons of their native born pastor, Elder Jonathan Woodman . . . sermons that took on an added eloquence after he became pastor of the Freewill Baptist Church at Wheelock Hollow in 1854. However, it was more the sense of union, the need to preserve the entirety of the nation, that animated the volunteers of the town and sent over ten percent of its population to the battlefields.

At the commencement of the war in 1861 the population of Wheelock was 835. The original number of men between the ages of 20 and 45, placed on the United States Enrollment List in June 1863 was subsequently reduced, by enlistments and corrections, to 78 men.

During the continuance of the war, the town furnished and sent into the service 85 soldiers, whose records appear in the following pages.

The average annual amount of the Grand List of the town from 1861 to 1865, both years included, was about \$2000, upon which was assessed, from time to time, the expenses of its share of the war. The aggregate amount of money paid by the town and individuals, including debts they contracted to pay bounties for the soldiers, recruiting, enlisting and transporting them, aid to their families, etc. was \$25,584.51. The amount in more detail appears thus:

Bounties to volunteers	\$21,150.85
Enlisting recruits	497.99
Subsistence	13.40
Transportation	20.45
Substitutes for enrolled men	1,100.00
Aid to soldiers' families	43.00
Correction of Government Rolls	58.82
Commutation paid by individuals	2,700.00
	<hr/>
	\$25,584.51

### STATE OF VERMONT ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Montpelier, Vt. October 3, 1914

I hereby certify that the following is a correct list of enlisted men in the Civil War credited to the Town of Wheelock, Vt. with rank, Company and Organization in which they served, as appears from the records in this office.

#### Commissioned Officers

	Co.	Regt.
Lt. Col. Harley P. Mathewson		U. S. Vols. Med. Dept.
Captain Sanford G. Gray	K.	6th
2nd Lt. Stephen O. Elkins	G.	15th

#### Non-Commissioned Officers

Sgt. Jesse G. Gray	K.	11th
Sgt. Albert Chesley	K.	11th
Sgt. Daniel S. Jones	E.	6th
Corp. Allen S. Batten	C.	3rd
Corp. Roswell L. Coffran	E.	6th
Corp. Norman W. Caswell	G.	15th
Corp. Walter H. Chase	G.	15th
Corp. Hiram K. Thomas	G.	15th
Corp. William H. Jones	C.	8th
Musician Searles R. Willey	G.	15th

#### Privates

Ayer, William L.	G.	15th
Blodgett, Milo	G.	15th
Cree, Stephen G.	G.	15th
Drake, Spender Jr.	G.	15th
Cadley, John	G.	15th
Gray, Isaac K.	G.	15th
Kelley, Reuben E.	G.	15th
Larned, Chester A.	G.	15th
Sheldon, John	G.	15th
Smith, Levi	G.	15th
Allard, Asa	H.	7th
Allard, David, Jr.	E.	6th
Alls, Dearborn	D.	1st Cav.
Alston, Robert	C.	3rd
Badger, William	E.	7th
Bean, Joseph	A.	10th
Bean, William W.	H.	1st Cav.
Benson, Nelson E.	E.	17th
Chase, Henry B.	A.	11th
Chesley, Asa J.	K.	11th
Clement, Edwin C.	A.	10th
Coffran, John A.	E.	6th
Cooper, Edward S.		2nd V. R. C.



Daniels, John H.	A.	11th
Daniels, Hiram S.	K.	8th
Fisher, Calvin A.	G.	4th
Flood, John	K.	11th
Folsom, Henry	C.	3rd
Gallagher, Daniel		U. S. Navy
George, John	I.	11th
George, Levi	I.	11th
Gray, Almon	K.	11th
Gray, George N.		Unassigned
Ham, Nathaniel	K.	11th
Hanscomb, Willis	K.	11th
McCauley, James	C.	8th
Driscoll, John	C.	3rd
Hill, Charles	E.	6th
Hines, John	E.	6th
Hodgson, Carlos	L.	1st Cav.
Hubbard, Daniel C.	K.	11th
Jackson, William C.		Unassigned
Jones, Abial H.	G.	3rd
Jones, Daniel L.	G.	2nd V. R.
Jones, Stephen M.	E.	6th
Judd, William W.	E.	6th
Kelley, John F.	K.	3rd
Keighley, James	E.	6th
King, Patrick	E.	6th
Knapp, George	H.	7th
Londry, Gustus		1st A. C.
Mathewson, Ozias D.	E.	6th
Miles, Asa	E.	6th
Patch, Franklin W.	C.	3rd
Piper, Isaiah	E.	6th
Ranney, William J.	H.	7th
Sanborn, Charles H.	F.	3rd
Shanty, Frederick	E.	6th
Shonio, George A.	G.	2nd V. R.
Smith, Luther A.	K.	11th
Snell, Adam R.	D.	4th
Stamps, George W.	C.	8th
Taylor, William	M.	11th
Way, Harrison	E.	6th
White, Samuel	G.	8th
Whitcher, Alfred	G.	8th
Whitcher, Charles	G.	8th
Whitney, Artemus C.	G.	4th
Whitney, Frederick	E.	6th
Whitney, Benjamin F.	K.	11th
Willey, Clark M.	B.	3rd
Williams, Edwin A.	K.	11th
Wilson, James S.	E.	11th

Signed . . EDWARD BAKER  
Ass't. Adjutant General

Seal of the Adjutant General  
of Vermont

List of enrolled men from Wheelock, who were drafted Aug. 12, 1863 and notified to report at headquarters in Woodstock, Vt. Aug. 28, 1863.

Names	Remarks
Allard, Isaac	Exempt, parents dependent
Ayer, Martin F.	Paid \$300 commutation
Beemiss, Seneca S.	Paid \$300 commutation
Berry, Elisha F.	Excused, not able bodied
Carter, A. J.	Paid \$300 commutation
Chase, Ferdinand W.	Paid \$300 commutation
Davis, Demeritt	Paid \$300 commutation
Fuller, George T.	Excused, not able bodied
Gray, Aaron	Exempt on mother's election
Hart, William	Paid \$300 commutation
Heath, Andrew J.	Excused, not able bodied

Hollis, Perry	Excused, not able bodied
Lynch, Edward	Exempt, over 45 years old
Lynton, John	Excused, not able bodied
Morgan, William	Paid \$300 commutation
Rines, James	Exempt, parents dependent
Story, Horace	Excused, not able bodied
Taylor, B. F.	Excused, only one arm
Weeks, Samuel, Jr.	Deserted to Canada
Whitney, Albert	Excused, 3 brothers in army
Williams, Edwin A.	Exempt, only son of a widow
Young, Hiram	Deserted to Canada

List of enrolled men drafted May 1864 to fill quota of Wheelock

Chase, Walter H.	Paid \$300 commutation
Clement, Ephraim	Paid \$300 commutation
Smalley, Elder	Excused, not able bodied
Story, Horace	Excused, not able bodied
Macomber, C. S.	Dead at time of draft.

The town put in three volunteers to save further draft to fill this quota and paid \$300 to each man.

#### NECROLOGY

Of the 85 soldiers furnished by the town, 20 died in the service of the United States. In addition, 11 soldiers, who had been born in Wheelock or had had a residence there at some time, gave their lives in the cause. These were:

Allard, Asa	Hines, John
Allard, David, Jr.	Hodgson, Carlos
Ayer, William L.	Jones, Abial H.
Bean, Joseph	Kelly, John F.
Bogue, Oscar	Knapp, George
Chase, Henry B.	Magoon, Orville J.
Chesley, Asa J.	Mathewson, Ozias D.
Clement, Edwin C.	McCauley, James
Coffran, John A.	Miles, Asa
Conner, Martin V. B.	Sanborn, Charles H.
Day, Dennison	Smith, Luther A.
Folsom, Henry H.	Whitcher, Alfred
Gray, George N.	Whitney, Albert
Gray, Capt. Sanford G.	Whitney, Benjamin F.
Gray, Silas E.	Whitney, Frederick
Gray, William R.	

#### THE WHEELOCK FLAG

One of the first patriotic acts of the townspeople of Wheelock, after the news of the fall of Ft. Sumter reached them, was to make a flag to adorn the village street. There must have been some intense rivalry between Wheelock and its neighbor to the north, as a remark of an old resident of the former is still recalled in connection with the flag, "Sheffield raised her flag several days earlier, but ours was larger."

At the dedication of the Soldiers Monument in 1915, Judge W. H. Taylor recalled those anxious days:

The flag employed in these services has a history which is worthy of notice. Though worn and faded, it is eloquent with meaning to some of us, for our mothers made it and baptized it with their tears. Soon after the fall of Sumter, the loyal men of Wheelock bethought themselves of a flag. Funds were soon raised to purchase the material. The women of the town gathered at the meetinghouse and with ready fingers wrought their country's emblem. Although the ruthless hand of secession had sought to efface eleven stars from the constellation on its field of blue, in faith they placed "a star for every state," with the fervent prayer that in God's good time there would be a "state for every star." While the women toiled upon the flag, the young men, led by Uncle Sullo-way, John Sanborn, John Meserve and James French, procured two handsome poles from the swamp near Ramsay Corner and set them up across the street just north of my father's store, in such a way that no one could escape doing honor to the flag by passing under it. Here the flag was flung to the breeze with appropriate ceremonies. Judge Cree delivered the oration and the old anvil, that in our boyhood days did service on the Fourth of July, was used in firing the salute.

#### THE POWER OF OLD GLORY

The influence of this flag in arousing the patriotic ardor of the community cannot be estimated . . . An incident related by Stephen G. Cree illustrates the point. Deacon Orin Nelson, whom some of you remember as a serious man, coming down the hill back of the church on his way to the village, was so stirred by the sight of this flag that dignity gave way to demonstration. He cheered so long and loudly that the whole village turned out to discover the reason for the disturbance. If such was the influence on Deacon Nelson, how much of patriotic ardor it must have inspired among the susceptible young men of the town.

As late as 1944 this same flag was an inspiration for a patriotic paper for the Edmunds Essay Contest of that year. Miss Ruth Mason of Lyndon Institute won the Second State Award with her essay that contains interesting references to Wheelock:

Recently I saw a flag of the Union. It had been flown by the little town of Wheelock in 1861, after the fall of Fort Sumter when most Vermont towns prominently displayed such a symbol. . . .

Wheelock's flag measures twenty-two feet, two inches in length, by fifteen feet, two inches in width. There are thirteen red and white stripes; but the blue field, nine by eight feet,



WHEELOCK FLAG

bears only thirty-five white stars. Stripes, field and stars are all hand-sewn and the old wool bunting is remarkably well preserved.

Mr. William Chase, father of the donor of the Wheelock monument, had purchased the bunting from Waterman, Smith, agent for the New Hampshire Print Works. Stephen G. Cree cut out the eight-inch stars from the bleached cotton furnished by B. F. Taylor, who also contributed thread from his store.

For years this flag lay forgotten in the attic of A. J. Rennie's house, formerly the old Wheelock hotel; but in 1915, when preparations were in the making for the dedication of the soldiers' monument, presented to Wheelock by one of its native sons, Ferd W. Chase, it was hunted out and repaired, to be used, very appropriately, for draping the monument until it was unveiled.

After the dedication ceremony, O. D. Mathewson, my former principal, born in Wheelock and always deeply interested in its history, secured the flag and carefully preserved it in his home.

(The flag is now with the Mathewson Papers at VHS, Montpelier)



## WOMEN'S WORK IN WHEELOCK DURING THE WAR

With the completion of the flag, the work of the women did not come to an end. As long as the war continued their needles were busy and their pens were active in sending what comfort they could to their soldiers.

During the year 1864 Wheelock women sent to the United States Sanitary Commission for aid to the Union soldiers:

4 dressing gowns	24 towels
5 pairs drawers	74 lbs. bandages
18 sheets	1 bed quilt
3 pairs slippers	80 pillowcases
20 shirts	6 pairs footings
86 pillows	

## MEN ON THE HOME FRONT

In his 1915 Memorial Day speech Judge W. H. Taylor said:

It remains to mention some of those who were influential in town affairs during the period of the war. Among the number were William Chase, for many years the town's efficient clerk and treasurer; Samuel Nelson, Charles Welch, Charles Rogers, Calvin Chase, Ferdinand Darling, E. M. Magoon, William B. Jones and George Giffin, who at times during that period acted as selectmen and upon whom rested the responsibility of securing volunteers to fill the town's quota; James S. Porter, Thomas Chandler, Samuel H. Jones, Lorenzo Sulloway, Samuel D. Gray, John Meserve, Orin Nelson, William Folsom, Benjamin Morgan, strong and influential men in shaping the policies of the town; Rev. Jonathan Woodman, whose denunciation of slavery, patriotic appeals for recruits, and fervent prayers for the success of the Union cause are still remembered by the survivors of that generation; Charles H. Davis, who served as recruiting officer and did much to arouse the young men to enlist; and finally, the tower of strength among them all, the recognized leader in the town's affairs, Judge T. J. Cree. Although a lifelong Democrat, he gave the administration unstinted support throughout the war. His voice and influence could always be depended upon to advance the public weal.

## SOLDIERS RECORDS

At the town meeting of March 7, 1865 it was voted that Judge T. J. Cree be the agent to prepare and write the soldiers' records of Wheelock, agreeable to an Act of the Legislature approved Nov. 15, 1864. The following material is from his records, as found in the *Mathewson Papers*.

ALLARD, ASA, son of David and Mary Allard, born in Wheelock. Aged 23 at time of enlistment Jan. 25, 1862 for three years. Mustered Feb. 12, 1862. Private Co. H 7th Vt. Vols. Died at Pensacola, Fla. Jan. 11, 1863 and is interred in the National Cemetery, Barrancas, Fla. Unmarried. Gov't bounty of \$100 and back pay of \$56.76 paid to his father.

ALLARD, DAVID, JR., son of David and Mary Allard, born in Wheelock. Age 24. Enlisted Sept. 30, 1861 for three years. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861. Private Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Died June 18, 1862 of typhoid fever near Richmond, Va. Unmarried. Gov't. bounty of \$100 and back pay of \$44.63 paid to his father, through his guardian, T. J. Cree.

ALLARD, ISAAC, son of David and Mary Allard. Drafted Aug. 21, 1863. Excused because of his parents being dependent on his support.

ALLS, DEARBORN. Place of birth and residence unknown. Enlisted at Brattleboro for the town of Wheelock. Age 21. Enlisted Sept. 20, 1864. Mustered the same day. Private and recruit in Co. D 1st Vt. Cavalry. Deserted Nov. 15, 1864. Town bounty of \$700.

ALSTON, ROBERT, son of G. Alston of Greensboro, Vt. Born in Scotland. Age 24. Enlisted Aug. 12, 1862, a private and recruit in Co. C 3rd Vt. Vols. In service three years. Left at home wife and four children. Was slightly wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness May 5, 1864. Mustered out June 19, 1865. Gov't. bounty \$100.

AYER, MARTIN F., son of John P. and Philene Ayer. Drafted Aug. 12, 1863. Paid his commutation of \$300 and was excused.

AYER, WILLIAM L., son of John P. and Philene Ayer, born in Goshen Gore (Stannard). Age 19. Enlisted for nine months Sept. 7, 1862. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862. Private Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Died in camp near Fairfax Court House, Va. Jan. 4, 1863. Unmarried. Town bounty \$100 and back pay, \$46.36, paid to his father.

BADGER, WILLIAM, aged 18. Enlisted for one year and mustered Aug. 24, 1864. Private and recruit in Co. E 7th Vt. Vols. Mustered out June 21, 1865. Town bounty \$600.

BATTEN, ALLEN S., resident of Goshen Gore (Stannard). Enlisted for Wheelock Nov. 23, 1863 for three years. Age 19. Mustered Dec. 19, 1863.

Promoted to Corporal June 29, 1865. Mustered out July 11, 1865. Town bounty \$300.

BEAN, JOSEPH, son of Abner Bean, born in Wheelock. Age 41. Enlisted for three years July 12, 1862. Mustered Sept. 1, 1862. Private in Co. A 10th Vt. Vols. Taken prisoner Oct. 11, 1862 and died at Richmond, Va. March 23, 1864 and is buried at the National Cemetery, Richmond, Va. Was married and left a wife and several children.

BEAN, WILLIAM W., son of David and Abigail (Ward) Bean, born in Wheelock 1845. Age 19. Enlisted for one year Aug. 17, 1864. Mustered the same day a recruit in Co. H 1st Vt. Cavalry. Private. Unmarried. Mustered out June 21, 1865. Town bounty \$600.

BEMISS, SENACA S., drafted Aug. 12, 1863. Paid commutation and was excused.

BENSON, NELSON E. Age 18. Enlisted for one year Aug. 18, 1864 and mustered the same day a recruit and private in Co. E 17th Vt. Vols. Mustered out June 2, 1865. Resided in Worcester, Vt. but enlisted for Wheelock, which paid him a bounty of \$600. He had previously served an enlistment in Co. H 6th Vt. Vols for Worcester.

BLODGETT, MILO, residence Goshen Gore (Stannard). Enlisted for the town of Wheelock as a nine months man. Age 25. Enlisted Sept. 17, 1862. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, a private in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100.

BOGUE, OSCAR, a resident of Wheelock. Enlisted for the town of Glover. Age 23. Enlisted Jan. 12, 1862. Mustered Feb. 12, 1862, a private in Co. H 7th Vt. Vols. Died Dec. 4, 1862 and is buried in the National Cemetery at Chalmette, near New Orleans, La.

CADLEY, JOHN, residence unknown. Age 33. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock Sept. 17, 1862 for nine months. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, a private in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Promoted corporal Jan. 1, 1863. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100.

CARTER, AMERICUS J., Wheelock doctor, enrolled in Wheelock June 1863. Drafted Aug. 12, 1863. Paid commutation of \$300 and was excused for three years.

CASWELL, NORMAN W. Age 43. Of Goshen Gore (Stannard). Enlisted for the town of Wheelock Sept. 7, 1862. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862,

a corporal in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. as a nine months man but was reduced in rank by request Jan. 1, 1863. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100. Gov't. bounty \$25.

CHASE, FERDINAND W., son of William Chase, born in Wheelock Feb. 17, 1840. Enrolled June 1863. Drafted Aug. 12, 1864. Paid commutation of \$300 and was excused.

CHASE, HENRY B., son of Charles Chase, born in Wheelock. Age 18. Enlisted for three years Nov. 24, 1863, a private in Co. A 11th Vt. Vols. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863. Taken prisoner near Petersburg, Va. and taken to Andersonville, Ga. where he died Oct. 27, 1864. (*War Dept. Records show Sept. 16, 1864*) Town bounty \$300.

CHASE, WALTER H., son of Calvin Chase, born in Wheelock Dec. 26, 1837. Age 24. Enlisted Sept. 7, 1862. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, corporal in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Was afterwards enrolled and drafted, paid commutation of \$300 and was excused.

CHESLEY, ALBERT, son of Jonathan Chesley. Born in Sheffield and a resident of that town. Age 34. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock Dec. 4, 1863 and mustered the same day, private and recruit in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Promoted Sergeant Apr. 30, 1865. Transferred to Co. D 11th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Aug. 25, 1865. Town bounty \$300, Gov't. bounty \$300.

CHESLEY, ASA J., son of George W. Chesley. Born in Sheffield and resident of that town. Enlisted for Wheelock Dec. 5, 1863 and mustered the same day, private and recruit in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Taken a prisoner June 23, 1864, carried to Andersonville, Ga., and died there of pneumonia Aug. 9, 1864. His grave is No. 5103 in Andersonville National Cemetery. Town bounty \$300, Gov't. bounty, \$300. Unmarried. Age 24.

CLEMENT, EDWIN C. Age 22. Enlisted for three years July 29, 1862. Mustered Sept. 1, 1862, private in Co. A 10th Vt. Vols. Killed in action near Cold Harbor, Va. June 1, 1864. He is buried in the National Cemetery at Cold Harbor, Va. He left a wife and one child.

CLEMENT, EPHRAIM, son of Page Clement, born in Wheelock. Enrolled June 1863 and was drafted May 1864. Paid his commutation of \$300 and was excused for one year.



COFFRAN, JOHN A., son of John Coffran, born in Wheelock Mar. 16, 1840. Age 21. Enlisted for three years Sept. 21, 1861. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Died of disease at Camp Griffin, Fairfax, Va. Nov. 21, 1861. His remains were brought home and are interred in the Wheelock village cemetery. He was among the first men to enlist and was the first soldier from the town to die.

COFFRAN, ROSWELL L., son of John Coffran, born in Wheelock Feb. 3, 1842. Age 20. Enlisted for three years Oct. 2, 1861. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, a private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Promoted Corporal Apr. 30, 1862. Deserted Dec. 30, 1862 and went to reside in Canada East. He later returned to this country and resided in Topeka, Kan., where he served as mayor for four terms.

CONNER, MARTIN V. B., son of Benjamin Conner, born in Wheelock. Age 26. Enlisted for the town of St. Albans, Vt. Feb. 1, 1862. Mustered Feb. 12, 1862, private in Co. F 7th Vt. Vols. He died of disease Aug. 31, 1862.

COOPER, EDWARD S. of Rochester, Vt. enlisted for that town in Co. E 4th Vt. Vols. Sept. 9, 1861. Wounded Sept. 16, 1862. Transferred to Veterans Reserve Corps Sept. 1, 1863. Discharged Apr. 15, 1864 and the same day re-enlisted to the credit of Wheelock and was assigned to the 24th Co. 2nd Bttn Vt. Reserve Corps and was discharged Oct. 1, 1864. Wheelock paid him a bounty of \$300.

CREE, STEPHEN G., son of Thomas Jefferson Cree, born in Wheelock Dec. 6, 1834. Age 27. Enlisted Sept. 7, 1862 for nine months. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, a private in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Was at the Battle of Gettysburg, morning of the second day, when his regiment guarded the supply train. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100, Gov't. bounty \$25. Enrolled and furnished a substitute, John Driscoll, for three years from August 1864, paying him \$1000, of which the town paid \$600 as bounty.

CUSHING, AMOS, born in Canada East. Age 25. Enlisted for town of Walden Sept. 3, 1861. Mustered Sept. 20, 1861, a private in Co. G 4th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Sept. 30, 1864. Gov't. bounty \$100. He had lived for several years in Wheelock.

DANIELS, HIRAM S. born in Canada East. Age 25. Enlisted for one year Mar. 27, 1865, as private

in Co. K 8th Vt. Vols. and mustered the same day. Mustered out June 28, 1865. Town bounty \$500.

DANIELS, JOHN H., son of Samuel P. Daniels. Born in Wheelock. Age 18. Enlisted Aug. 1, 1862 for three years. Mustered Sept. 1, 1862, a private in Co. A 11th Vt. Vols. Transferred to Veterans Reserve Corps Mar. 21, 1865. Mustered out June 28, 1865. Wounded in the hand, finger amputated.

DAVIS, DEMERRITT, son of Franklin Davis. Enrolled in Wheelock. Drafted Aug. 12, 1863. Paid his commutation of \$300 and was excused for three years. Died in Lyndon Nov. 10, 1876, aged 40 years.

DAY, DENNISON, son of Edmund and Augusta Day, born in Barre, Vt. Enlisted for the town of St. Johnsbury Feb. 24, 1864 in Co. G 17th Vt. Vols. Mustered Apr. 12, 1864 for three years. Died in camp, Shenandoah Valley, Va. Oct. 24, 1864.

DRAKE, SPENCER, JR., son of Spencer Drake of Sheffield, born in Bethel, Me. Age 28. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for nine months Sept. 17, 1862. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, as private in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100, Gov't. bounty \$25.

DRISCOLL, JOHN is credited to Wheelock as a substitute for Stephen G. Cree. Enlisted Sept. 7, 1864 in Co. C 3rd Regiment Vt. Vols and was mustered the same day. He is reported as deserter Oct. 1864. His name also appears on the roll of substitute sailors and marines as having enlisted Sept. 8, 1864 but does not appear as assigned to service.

ELKINS, STEPHEN O., son of Josiah Elkins, born in Wheelock. Age 25. Enlisted for nine months September 1862. Commissioned 2nd Lt. Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Sept. 17, 1862. Promoted 1st Lt. Co. B Apr. 1, 1863. Mustered out of service Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100, Gov't. bounty \$25.

FISHER, CALVIN A., resident of Greensboro, Vt. Age 25. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for three years Nov. 25, 1863. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863, a private in Co. G 4th Vt. Vols. Transferred to Co. F on Feb. 25, 1865. Mustered out July 13, 1865. Town bounty \$300, Gov't. bounty \$300.

FLOOD, JOHN, son of William and Hannah Flood, born in Glover, Vt. Age 31. Resident of

Wheelock. Enlisted for three years on Nov. 23, 1863. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863, Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Transferred to Co. A June 24, 1865 and again transferred to Co. D. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1865. Town bounty \$300, Gov't. bounty, \$300. Died Oct. 9, 1867.

FOLSOM, HENRY, son of William Folsom, born in Wheelock Mar. 26, 1840. Age 21. Enlisted June 1, 1861 for three years. Mustered July 16, 1861 in Co. C 3rd Vt. Vols. Died in Ebenson Hospital, Washington, D. C. Oct. 2, 1862. He is buried in the National Military Asylum Cemetery. Unmarried. Gov't. bounty of \$100 and back pay of \$39.86 paid to his father.

GALLAGHER, DANIEL, born in Canada East. Enlisted Nov. 12, 1863 in the Naval Service for one year to the credit of Wheelock, for which the town voted and paid him a special bounty of \$200. He was assigned to the *Harvest Moon*. Discharged Jan. 6, 1865.

GEORGE, JOHN, son of James George, born in Sandwich, N. H. A resident of Worcester, Vt. Age 42. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for one year Aug. 8, 1864. Mustered the same day, a private and recruit in Co. I 11th Vt. Vols. He had served a previous enlistment to the credit of Worcester in Co. A 8th Vt. Vols. Mustered out June 24, 1865. Town bounty \$600.

GEORGE, LEVI, son of James George, born in Sandwich, N. H. Age 44. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for one year Aug. 8, 1864. Mustered the same day, a private and recruit in Co. I 11th Vt. Vols. Mustered out June 24, 1865. Town bounty \$600.

GRAY, ALMON, son of Samuel D. Gray, born in Wheelock. Age 26. Enlisted for one year Aug. 6, 1864. Mustered the same day, a private and recruit in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Discharged June 29, 1865. Town bounty of \$650.

GRAY, GEORGE N., son of Solomon and Emily Gray, born in Sheffield. Age 16. Enlisted from Wheelock Nov. 21, 1863 for three years. Mustered Dec. 4, 1863, a private and recruit in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. He did not join his regiment, but died of diphtheria Dec. 27, 1863 in U. S. Hospital, Brattleboro, Vt. His remains were brought home and interred in the village cemetery Jan. 24, 1864. Unmarried. Town bounty \$300 and Gov't. bounty \$300 paid to his mother, then Mrs. John Miles.

GRAY, ISAAC K., son of Samuel D. Gray, born in Wheelock Mar. 14, 1844, Age 19. Enlisted Sept. 17, 1862. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862 for nine months in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Discharged Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100 and Gov't. bounty \$25. Re-enlisted Aug. 6, 1864 and was mustered the same day, private and recruit in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. for one year and was mustered out of service June 24, 1865. Town bounty \$650.

GRAY, JESSE G., son of Eliphalet Gray, born in Wheelock Oct. 28, 1833. Age 30. Enlisted Nov. 24, 1863 for three years. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863, a private in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Promoted corporal. Promoted sergeant. Transferred to Co. A June 24, 1865. Transferred to Co. D. Mustered out Aug. 25, 1865. Town bounty \$300, Gov't. bounty \$300.

GRAY, SANFORD G., son of Reuben and Anna Gray, born in Sheffield, Vt. July 27, 1843. Enlisted for Wheelock Sept. 26, 1861 for three years. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, as private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Promoted corporal and then sergeant. Re-enlisted Dec. 15, 1863. Promoted 1st Lt. Co. H on Oct. 29, 1864 and Captain Co. K Apr. 22, 1865. Mustered out June 25, 1865. Town paid him a bounty of \$200 for re-enlistment. He was severely wounded in the side at Cold Harbor.

GRAY, SILAS E., son of Stephen D. Gray, born in Wheelock. Age 21. Enlisted for three years for the credit of Sheffield on Jan. 21, 1862. Mustered Feb. 12, 1862, a corporal Co. H 7th Vt. Vols. Died of disease at Baton Rouge, La. Aug. 7, 1862.

GRAY, WILLIAM R., son of Solomon and Emily, born in Sheffield, Vt. Age 19. Enlisted Dec. 21, 1861 for the town of Greensboro, Vt. for three years. Mustered Feb. 18, 1862, a private in Co. E 8th Vt. Vols. Shot at Bayou Des Allemandes, La. Sept. 24, 1862 and is buried in the National Cemetery at Chalmette, La. near New Orleans.

HAM, NATHANIEL, born in Sheffield. Age 27. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for three years Dec. 4, 1863. Mustered the same day, a private and recruit in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Transferred to Co. A June 24, 1865 and transferred to Co. D. Mustered out Aug. 25, 1865. Town bounty \$300 and Gov't. bounty \$300.

HANSCOM, WILLIS G., adopted son of Samuel and Selista Hanscom. Born in Canada East. Age



18. Enlisted for one year Aug. 17, 1864. Mustered the same day, a private in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Mustered out of service June 24, 1865. Town bounty \$600.

HART, WILLIAM, son of Nathaniel and Joanna Hart, was drafted Aug. 12, 1863. Paid a commutation of \$300 and was excused for three years.

HILL, CHARLES, born in Canada East. Age 21. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for three years Sept. 21, 1861. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, a private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Wounded in the knee at Savage Station, the Peninsular Campaign. Taken prisoner June 29, 1862. Paroled Sept. 14, 1862. Discharged Jan. 12, 1863.

HINES, JOHN, born in Canada. Resident of Wheelock. Age 37. Enlisted Aug. 14, 1862 for three years. Mustered Sept. 22, 1862, a private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Killed at Franklin Ford on the Rappahannock, Virginia June 6, 1863, while skirmishing. He was survived by his wife and two children.

HODGSON, CARLOS, son of Jonathan Hodgson, born in Sheffield and a resident there. Age 20. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock Aug. 10, 1864 for one year. Mustered the same day, a private in Co. L 1st Vermont Cavalry. Killed in action Oct. 9, 1864. Town bounty \$600.

HUBBARD, DANIEL W., son of Rufus Hubbard, born in Wheelock. Age 20. Enlisted for one year Aug. 8, 1864. Mustered the same day, private and recruit in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Mustered out July 11, 1865. Town bounty \$600.

JACKSON, WILLIAM C., resident of Barnet, Vt. Age 44. Enlisted to the credit of Wheelock Mar. 14, 1865 for one year. Mustered the same day but never joined his regiment, in which he had enlisted as private and recruit in Co. K 8th Vt. Vols. Discharged Apr. 13, 1865 at New Haven, Conn. Town bounty \$500.

JONES, ABIAL, son of Samuel and Betsey (Root) Jones, born in Wheelock. Age 21. Enlisted for three years June 1, 1861. Mustered July 16, 1861 in Co. G 3rd Vt. Vols. He was the first Wheelock man to enlist. Died at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Va. July 10, 1862. He is buried in the National Cemetery, Hampton, Va.

JONES, DANIEL S., son of William B. and Mercy (Mathewson) Jones, born in Wheelock Jan. 17, 1841. Age 20. Enlisted for three years

Sept. 20, 1861. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, as private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Promoted corporal. Re-enlisted Dec. 15, 1863. Promoted sergeant Aug. 21, 1864. Transferred to Co. K on Oct. 5, 1864. Mustered out July 1, 1865. Town bounty \$200.

JONES, STEPHEN MATHEWSON, son of William B. and Mercy Jones, born in Wheelock Aug. 13, 1842. Age 19. Enlisted for three years Sept. 20, 1861. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, a private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Transferred to Veterans Reserve Nov. 20, 1863. Discharged Oct. 15, 1864.

JONES, WILLIAM HENRY, son of William B. and Mercy Jones, born in Wheelock Sept. 12, 1836. Age 25. Enlisted Dec. 4, 1861. Mustered Feb. 18, 1862, private in Co. C 8th Vt. Vols. Promoted corporal. Mustered out June 22, 1864.

JUDD, WILLIAM W. Residence unknown. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock Sept. 21, 1861 and mustered Oct. 15, 1861 in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Never was a Wheelock resident. Is reported to have deserted July 31, 1862. Town bounty \$300.

KEIGHLY, JAMES, residence unknown. Age 24. Enlisted for three years Oct. 1, 1861 and mustered Oct. 15, 1861, a private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Deserted Sept. 6, 1862.

KELLEY, JOHN F., son of Eldouglass Farnham Kelley, born in Danville, Vt. Age 18. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock, being then a resident, for three years July 10, 1861. Mustered July 16, 1861, private in Co. K 3rd Vt. Vols. Discharged for disability July 23, 1861. Re-enlisted as private and recruit in Co. C 3rd Vt. Vols. Mustered Oct. 2, 1861. Wounded at Savage Station June 29, 1862. Dropped from Company rolls Jan. 20, 1863. Died of smallpox Mar. 11, 1863 at U. S. Hospital, Islington Lane, Philadelphia, Pa. Buried in National Cemetery, Philadelphia.

KELLEY, REUBEN E., son of Eldouglass Farnham Kelley, born in Danville. Age 34. Enlisted Sept. 17, 1862. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, a private in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100. Gov't. bounty \$25.

KELLEY, WILLIAM A., son of Eldouglass Farnham Kelley, born in Danville. Age 23. Enlisted for the town of Lyndon for three years Nov. 25, 1863. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863, in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Aug. 25, 1865. Town bounty \$300.

KING, PATRICK, residence unknown. Age 21. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for three years Sept. 20, 1861. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861. Lost a finger on picket duty at Camp Griffin. Discharged Jan. 8, 1862.

KNAPP, GEORGE. Residence Lyndon, where he was born. Enlisted for Wheelock for one year Sept. 5, 1864. Mustered the same day, a private in Co. H 7th Vt. Vols. Died of disease while in service May 31, 1865 and is buried in the National Cemetery, Mobile, Ala.

LARNARD, CHESTER, son of William and Henrietta Larnard, born in Oxford, Mass. Resident of Wheelock. Age 32. Enlisted Sept. 17, 1862 for nine months. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, a private in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100. Gov't. bounty \$25.

LUNDY, GUSTIS, born in Canada. Age 27. Enlisted for Danville, Vt. for three years Sept. 6, 1861. Mustered Sept. 21, 1861 in Co. H 4th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Sept. 30, 1864. Again enlisted, this time for Wheelock, for one year Mar. 14, 1865 in Co. I 7th Vt. Vols. (*Hancock's First Army Corps*). Mustered out Mar. 14, 1866. Town bounty \$300. Gov't. bounty \$400.

MAGOON, ORVILLE J., son of Edward M. Magoon, born in Wheelock June 15, 1841. Age 21. Enlisted for the town of Lyndon for three years Aug. 15, 1862. Mustered Sept. 22, 1862, a private and recruit in Co. I 4th Vt. Vols. Died Nov. 16, 1862 in camp near New Baltimore, Va. Is buried in the National Cemetery, Alexandria, Va.

MATHEWSON, HARLEY PHILLIPS, born in Wheelock Dec. 14, 1828; died in Los Angeles, Cal. Aug. 3, 1901. Graduated from Dartmouth Medical School in 1863 and enlisted at once for service. Acting assistant surgeon USA from Dec. 8, 1862 (date of contract) to Mar. 13, 1863, when contract ended. Stationed at Columbian College Hospital, Washington, D. C. Appointed assistant surgeon U. S. Vols. Jan. 7, 1863. Promoted to surgeon U. S. Vols. Mar. 28, 1865. Discharged Oct. 7, 1865. Brevetted Lt. Col. U. S. Vols. Oct. 6, 1865 for faithful and meritorious service. His war service included a hospital camp at Milliken's Bend on the Mississippi River; service with Gen. Banks on the Red River Expedition; executive officer for Dr. Goldsmith at Lexington, Ky., where he assisted in building a hospital for 5000 patients in Jefferson-

ville, Ind.; medical director of the Second District of Kentucky toward the close of the war; and soon after, medical inspector of hospitals in the southern Mississippi Valley states.

MATHEWSON, OZIAS D., son of Charles Mathewson, born in Wheelock Mar. 13, 1839. Age 22. Enlisted for three years Sept. 23, 1861. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, a private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Died near Washington, D. C. Apr. 25, 1862. His remains were brought home and interred in the Wheelock village cemetery.

MCCOLLEY (MCCAULEY), JAMES, residence unknown. Age 27. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for three years Mar. 3, 1865. Mustered the same day, a private and recruit in Co. C 8th Vt. Vols. Died Apr. 15, 1865 of disease and is buried in the National Cemetery, Loudon Park, Annapolis, Md.

MILES, ASA, son of William Miles, born in Wheelock. Age 34. Enlisted for three years Aug. 6, 1862. Mustered Sept. 22, 1862, a private and recruit in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Killed in action before Fredericksburg, Va. Dec. 12, 1862. Survived by wife and five children.

MORGAN, WILLIAM, son of Benjamin and Abigail Morgan. Drafted Aug. 12, 1863. Paid commutation of \$300 and was excused for three years.

NELSON, JOHN WOODMAN, son of Orin and Sarah Nelson, born in Wheelock Aug. 3, 1828. Age 33. Enlisted Oct. 23, 1861. Mustered Oct. 28, 1861, as private in Co. C Reg. Massachusetts Volunteers. Re-enlisted in St. Augustine, Fla. for three years. Promoted sergeant. Mustered out Jan. 24, 1865. Wounded by ball through the ear.

PATCH, FRANKLIN W. A resident of Goshen Gore (Stannard). Age 18. Enlisted for Wheelock for three years Nov. 23, 1863. Mustered Dec. 9, 1863, a private in Co. C 3rd Vt. Vols. Mustered out June 24, 1865. Town bounty \$300. Gov't. bounty \$300.

PIPER, ISAIAH, son of Daniel Piper, born in Wheelock. Age 23. Enlisted for three years Sept. 23, 1861. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, as private Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Discharged June 14, 1862. Re-enlisted to the credit of Braintree, Vt. Feb. 3, 1864. Mustered same day, as private in Co. D 2nd Vt. Vols. Was wounded Apr. 2, 1865. Mustered out June 24, 1865.



RANNEY, WILLIAM J., son of John and Jane Ranney, born in New Ireland, P. Q. Age 24. Enlisted for three years Jan. 30, 1862. Mustered Feb. 12, 1862 in Co. H 7th Vt. Vols., as private. Discharged Oct. 15, 1862.

ROY, FRANCIS, born in Canada East. Age 21. Enlisted from Wheelock for credit to the town of Lyndon, Vt. Dec. 7, 1863 for three years. Mustered Dec. 10, 1863, as private in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Taken prisoner June 23, 1864. Transferred to Co. A June 24, 1865 and transferred to Co. B. Mustered out Aug. 25, 1865. Was a prisoner at Andersonville and other places.

SANBORN, CHARLES H., son of John W. and Lois Sanborn of Sheffield. Born Sept. 12, 1843. Age 18. Enlisted for the town of Sheffield, Vt. Dec. 10, 1861 and mustered the same day, as private in Co. F 3rd Vt. Vols. Re-enlisted for the town of Wheelock Feb. 9, 1864. Wounded May 12, 1864. Killed in battle of Fisher's Hill Sept. 22, 1864. Unmarried. Town voted and paid him an extra bounty for re-enlistment of \$200.

SHANTY, FREDERICK, resident of Goshen Gore (Stannard). Age 23. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock Oct. 1, 1861 for three years. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, as private in Co. E, 6th Vt. Vols. Discharged for disability May 31, 1862.

SHELDON, JOHN. Born in Sheldon, Vt. May 9, 1838. Age 24. Enlisted Sept. 17, 1862 for nine months. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, as private in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100. Gov't. bounty \$25.

SHONIO, GEORGE A. Resident of Duxbury, Vt. Enlisted for the town of Duxbury Oct. 1861 in Co. G 6th Vt. Vols. Wounded and taken prisoner June 29, 1862. Paroled Aug. 3, 1862. Transferred to Veterans Reserve Corps Sept. 1, 1863 and discharged Oct. 17, 1863. Re-enlisted to the credit of Wheelock May 19, 1864 and was assigned to Co. G 2nd Veterans Reserve Corps. Discharged July 8, 1865. Never a resident of Wheelock, which paid him Town bounty of \$300.

SMITH, LEVI A., born in Wheelock. Age 25. Enlisted Sept. 17, 1862 for nine months. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, a private in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$300. Gov't. bounty \$25.

SMITH, LUTHER A., son of Asa Smith and a resident of Sheffield. Age 27. Enlisted for the

town of Wheelock for three years Dec. 5, 1863 and mustered the same day, as private in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Killed in the battle of Cold Harbor, Va. June 1, 1864. Unmarried. Town bounty \$300.

SNELL, ADAM R. Born in Canada. Resident of Sheffield. Age 38. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for three years Dec. 5, 1863 and mustered the same day, a private in Co. D 4th Vt. Vols. Severely wounded in the battle of The Wilderness May 5, 1864. Came home on furlough. Is reported as a deserter and, afterwards, was reported sick in General Hospital as of July 13, 1865.

STAMPS, GEORGE W. Residence unknown. Negro. Age 36. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for one year Jan. 30, 1865 and mustered the same day as cook in Co. C 8th Vt. Vols. Mustered out June 28, 1865. Town bounty \$500.

TAYLOR, WILLIAM. Born in Canada East. Age 20. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock Aug. 28, 1863 for three years. Mustered Oct. 7, 1863, a private in Co. M 11th Vt. Vols. Transferred to Co. D June 24, 1865 and again to Co. A. Mustered out Aug. 25, 1865. Town voted him a bounty of \$200 at March Meeting 1864.

THOMAS, HIRAM K. Born in Chickdehawk, New Brunswick. Age 30. Enlisted for nine months Sept. 7, 1862. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, a corporal in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Discharged at Brattleboro, Vt. Mar. 21, 1863. Town bounty \$100.

WAY, HARRISON S. Born in Peacham, Vt. Age 22. Enlisted for three years Sept. 26, 1861. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, a private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Oct. 28, 1864. Re-enlisted Mar. 1, 1865 for one year and mustered a private in Co. C 4th Reg. Hancock's 1st Army Corps. Mustered out Mar. 9, 1866.

WHITE, SAMUEL. Born in Canada East. Age 19. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for one year Mar. 14, 1865 and mustered the same day, private and recruit in Co. G 8th Vt. Vols. Mustered out June 28, 1865. Town bounty \$500.

WHITCHER, ALFRED. Born in Canada East. Age 20. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for one year Mar. 16, 1865. Mustered the same day, a private and recruit in Co. G 8th Vt. Vols. Died April 29, 1865. Town bounty \$500.

WHITCHER, CHARLES. Born in Canada East. Age 24. Enlisted for the town of Wheelock for one year Mar. 16, 1865. Mustered the same day, a

private and recruit in Co. G 8th Vt. Vols. Mustered out June 28, 1865. Town bounty \$500.

WHITNEY, ARTEMUS C., son of Newhall and Elizabeth Whitney. Born in Canada East. Age 23. Enlisted for three years Mar. 4, 1862. Mustered Apr. 12, 1862, a private in Co. G 4th Vt. Vols. Transferred to Invalid Corps Sept. 1, 1863. Mustered out June 1865. Pension of \$4 a month as invalid.

WHITNEY, ALBERT, son of Newhall and Elizabeth Whitney. Born in Canada East. Age 23. Enlisted from Northumberland, N. H. in Co. I 1st Heavy Artillery N. H. Vols. Died at Fort Bosse, Va. Nov. 14, 1864.

WHITNEY, BENJAMIN F., son of Newhall and Elizabeth Whitney. Born in Canada East. Age 39. Enlisted for three years Dec. 4, 1863. Mustered the same day, a private in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Wounded June 1, 1864. Died at Strasburgh, Va. hospital Nov. 1, 1864. Buried in the National Cemetery, Winchester, Va. Survived by widow. No children.

WHITNEY, FREDERICK, son of Newhall and Elizabeth Whitney. Born in Canada East. Age 18. Enlisted Sept. 26, 1861 for three years. Mustered Oct. 15, 1861, a private in Co. E 6th Vt. Vols. Died of disease Mar. 14, 1862.

WHITNEY, ISAAC, son of Newhall and Elizabeth Whitney. Born in Canada East. Age 25.

Enlisted as a private in the 153rd New York Vols. Mustered out of service August 1865.

WHITNEY, J. THOMAS W., son of Newhall and Elizabeth Whitney. Born in Canada East. Age 42. Enlisted for one year for the town of Northumberland, N. H. in Co. I 1st Reg. N. H. Heavy Artillery. Mustered out August 1865. State and town bounty \$1000 from New Hampshire.

WILLEY, CLARK M., son of Paul Willey, born in Wheelock. Age 28. Enlisted for three years June 1, 1861. Mustered July 16, 1861, a private in Co. B 3rd Vt. Vols. Deserted Sept. 6, 1862.

WILLEY, SEARLES R., son of Stephen Willey and wife, Judith. Born in Wheelock. Age 36. Enlisted for nine months Sept. 7, 1862. Mustered Oct. 22, 1862, musician in Co. G 15th Vt. Vols. Mustered out Aug. 5, 1863. Town bounty \$100. Gov't. bounty \$25.

WILLIAMS, EDWIN A., son of Stephen and Martha Williams. Born in Sheffield, Vt. Age 22. Enlisted for one year Aug. 13, 1864. Mustered the same day, a private in Co. K 11th Vt. Vols. Mustered out June 24, 1865. Town bounty \$600.

WILSON, JAMES S., birthplace unknown. Age 28. Enlisted for one year for the town of Wheelock Aug. 8, 1864. Mustered the same day, a private and recruit in Co. I 11th Vt. Vols. Mustered out June 24, 1865. Town bounty \$600.





*Courtesy Mary Hannett Park*

DISTRICT SCHOOL No. 6



*Courtesy Addison Donaghy*

OLD RED SCHOOLHOUSE



## Chapter XLI

# Those Were The Happy Days

*The Old Red Schoolhouse Association*

After the school districts were abandoned in favor of all school matters being handled by the town, many of the little school buildings that had been scattered about the township were left idle. This became increasingly the case as families moved away from the hill farms.

Memories of the happy times spent in these district schools still lingered, however, and in 1912 the Old Red Schoolhouse Association was formed by pupils and teachers of South Wheelock. A logical meeting place seemed to be the old No. 6 District school, that had been the "new" school when built in 1858 opposite the first Freewill Baptist Church.

Since the church had been moved in 1884 to its present site in South Wheelock, the space it once occupied was vacant. So, the Old Red Schoolhouse Association got permission to move the unused school building to the triangle between the County and the "Middle" roads, and remodelled it for a clubhouse. An attractive feature was a large fireplace at one end of the former schoolroom. Stones of the fireplace and chimney each bore the name of the donor, a former pupil or teacher.

A dedication ceremony was held in 1915 and a memorial booklet printed, giving the names of former teachers and pupils in District No. 6 and at the Mountain and Chandler Pond schools as well. As the members met on that 22nd day of June, so they were to meet every summer for over forty years and renew childhood memories.

The early officers of the association were William W. Bean, Cornelius Buckley, William McGovern, Martin E. Daniels, Charles H. Goss, all presidents; Emma Gibson Hutchinson, treasurer in 1915; Board of Directors, (1915), Charles M. Darling, Timothy Buckley, John Buckley, Dr. Edward Lynch and Rev. John Lynch; Publication committee (1915), Clara Moulton Elliott; Arrangements committee (1915), Charles McGovern, Alice Gibson Menut, Mary Buckley and Lucy Gerry Weed.

In the dedication booklet are some poems that in their simple way show the affection the members felt for their old playmates and school associations. A few quotations include:

"Back to the Old Red Schoolhouse that stands  
on the rich greensward,  
Back to the rugged beauty, so close to Nature  
and God:  
Back to the hazel-nut bushes, the raspberries  
and roses so red,  
Back to winter coasting on Buckley's old sap  
sled.  
Back with my dear old schoolmates, teeterin'  
and playing "I Spy,"  
Give me just one more year of it, and then I'd  
be willing to die."

. . . . Emma Gibson Hutchinson

"I see again the schoolhouse  
So battered, old and worn  
The teeter-board, the old horse shed  
The parsonage, beyond"

. . . . Hattie Gibson Bigelow

"The view you get from the front of it  
You would say is certainly grand . . . ."

. . . . John Buckley

### *Old Chandler School*

"You may talk of the Old Red Schoolhouse,  
Or others at your will,  
I speak of the one near Chandler Pond,  
Where below stood the old saw mill.  
'Twas kept busy sawing out lumber  
For neighbors round about.  
The Pond held fish without number,  
Pickerel, eel and pout.  
Then just one side of the schoolhouse,  
There's not to mark the spot,  
Stood a structure built by A. S. Jones  
Where he kept a stone-cutter's shop.  
The workmen have gone to their final home.  
The schoolhouse has gone to decay,  
While another one stands to take its place  
Just opposite across the highway."

. . . . Lucie L. Woodward



## LIST OF TEACHERS

Allard, Hazel	Niles, Lou
Allen, Richard	Noyes, Almeda
Ayer, Nettie	Peck, Orville
Barber, Perry	Perkins, Ellen
Barker, Jane	Porter, Mary
Barker, Marie	Pratt, Etta
Batchelor, Sally	Quimby, Evalyn
Baxter, William	Quimby, Romanzo
Bean, Ethel	Randall, Auburn
Bean, Myra	Randall, Sarah
Bickford, Drusilla	Richardson, Minnie
Blodgett, Eva	Roberts, Helen
Blodgett, Carrie	Rogers, Charles
Bradley, Ida	Rogers, Hannah
Bradley, Mary	Rogers, Susie
Buckley, Cornelius	Root, Georgianna
Buckley, Honora	Ross, Royal
Buel, May	Royce, Grace
Cady, Nellie	Sanborn, Emma
Cahoon, George	Sanborn, Mary
Campbell, Mary	Shattuck, Adella
Carr, Jane	Shattuck, Angeline
Carter, Ona	Sherman, Ellen
Chamberlin, George	Shores, Herbert
Chandler, Aaron	Shores, Selina
Chase, Mary J.	Sleeper, Ellen
Cheney, Alice	Smith, Gladys
Chesley, Addie	Smith, Sadie
Clement, Electa	Stanton, Mary
Cofran, Cyrene	Stark, Fannie
Colby, Nellie	Stevens, Clara
Craig, Lillian	Story, Rev. Horace
Curtis, Bennett	Streeter, Addie
Hart, Ina	Streeter, Hattie
Jones, Henry	Streeter, Mattie
Jones, Martha	Suloway, Jane
Jones, Mary	Wakefield, Abbie
Jones, Stephen	Walbridge, Minnie
Mansfield, Nettie	Ward, Emma
Martin, Maggie	Ward, Mary
Mathewson, Angeline	Way, Gertrude
Mathewson, Arnold	Weeks, Abbie
Mathewson, Carrie	Weeks, Asenath
Mathewson, Celia	Weeks, Hannah
Mathewson, Maud	Weeks, Mary
Mathewson, Mercy	Weeks, Melissa
Mathewson, Ozias D.	Wilkinson, Jennie
McGovern, Agnes	Willard, Olive
McLean, Kathlene	Williams, Nellie
Moore, Maud	Williams, Rosette
Morse, Etta	Wilmarth, Corrine
Moulton, Clara	Wilmot, Jane
Nelson, George	Wilmot, Lorisa
Nelson, Lucy	Winter, Helen
Nichols, Diantha	Wood, Nelson
Nichols, Samantha	Woodruff, Caroline

## LIST OF PUPILS

Adams, Sam	Cofran, Austin
Ailes, George	Cofran, Cyrene
Ailes, Hattie	Cofran, Francese
Aldrich, Amos	Cofran, Franklin
Aldrich, Edmund	Cofran, Harriett
Aldrich, Guy Von	Cofran, Jane
Aldrich, Lenora	Cofran, John
Aldrich, Mary	Cofran, Joseph
Andrews, Luther	Cofran, Rebecca
Ayer, Mary	Cofran, Roswell
Badger, Carrie	Cofran, Sarah
Badger, Lucy	Colby, Clifford
Beady, George	Colby, Effie
Bean, Albert	Colby, Nellie
Bean, Alty	Coliston, . . . .
Bean, Annie	Corliss, Charles
Bean, Elizer	Corliss, Henry
Bean, Ethel	Corliss, Sidney
Bean, John	Cox, Alfred
Bean, Susie	Cox, Ernest
Bean, William	Cronen, Ben
Bean, William, Jr.	Crowley, Carrie
Beatee, Grace	Dana, Cora
Beatee, Harry	Daniels, Adeline
Beatee, Roy	Daniels, Carrie
Blake, Clayton	Daniels, Edwin
Blake, Ida	Daniels, Eleanor
Blake, Maynard	Daniels, George
Blake, Merritt	Daniels, Jennie
Blake, Raymond	Daniels, John
Blake, Willie	Daniels, Martin E.
Blake, Carrie	Daniels, May
Blake, Charles	Daniels, Ola B.
Brown, Albert	Daniels, Richard
Brown, Eddie	Darling, Alanson
Brown, George	Darling, Alice
Brown, Melvina	Darling, Charles M.
Brown, Rosa	Darling, Edward L.
Buckley, Cornelius	Darling, Emma
Buckley, Jerry	Darling, Fanny
Buckley, John	Darling, Ferdinand
Buckley, Mary	Darling, Henry
Buckley, Nora	Darling, Horace
Buckley, Timothy	Darling, Jennie
Buckley, Walter	Darling, John
Buckley, William	Darling, Samantha
Bundy, Elsie	Davidson, Iva
Burnham, Dora	Davidson, Mary
Burnham, Charles	Davidson, Ruth
Burnham, Ethel	Davis, Daniel
Butterfield, Albert	Davis, Frank
Butterfield, Foster	Davis, Gordon
Butterfield, Lester	Day, Lucy
Chandler, Aaron	Delworth, Perley
Chandler, Annie	Deos, Addie
Chandler, John	Deos, Alonzo
Chandler, Loraine	Deos, Cyrus
Chandler, Moses	Deos, Emma
Chandler, Natt	Deos, Florence
Chandler, Percy	Deos, Fred
Chandler, Sarah	Deos, Grace
Chandler, Thomas	Deos, Harley
Clark, Elmer	Deos, Harry
Clark, Laura	Deos, Harvey
Clark, Mary J.	Deos, Henry
Clark, Warren	Deos, Joseph
Clement, Alvira	Deos, Maud
Clement, Frank	Deos, Nellie
Clement, George	Deos, Ora
Clement, Iro	Deos, Orlando
Clement, Osgood	Dodd, Fannie
Clement, Peter	Dole, Augusta

"There is a dear little old Red Schoolhouse that  
stands upon the hill,

Where we took our book and dinner pails and  
tried our heads with knowledge to fill.

We had some dear good teachers and some that  
were not so smart,

And we had one that gave me a good thrash-  
ing. Her name was Ina Hart."

. . . . B. L. Gerry

- Donley, Alfred  
 Donley, Annie  
 Donley, Daniel  
 Donley, John  
 Donley, Mannie  
 Drew, Betsey  
 Drew, Helen  
 Drown, Burleigh  
 Drown, Charles  
 Drown, Earl  
 Drown, Roy  
 Drown, Silvia  
 Dunning, Hiram  
 Dunning, John  
 Dunning, Mary  
 Dutton, Cora  
 Early, Edna  
 Eastman, Adelaide  
 Eastman, Elsie  
 Eastman, Welcome B.  
 Elkins, Stephen O.  
 Emerson, Austin  
 Emerson, Jonathan  
 Emerson, Smith  
 Esden, Earl  
 Evans, Carrie  
 Farrell, Eddie  
 Flanders, Sibley  
 Flood, Agnes  
 Flood, Emma  
 Flood, John  
 Flood, Lizzie  
 Flood, Rosa  
 Folsom, Esther  
 Folsom, Taylor  
 Fowler, Roland  
 Foye, Emmett  
 French, Ellen  
 Frost, George  
 Frost, Sadie  
 Gadapee, Henry  
 Gadapee, Josephene  
 Gadapee, Louis  
 Gadapee, Phoebe  
 Gadapee, Thomas  
 Gage, Mabel  
 Garfield, Frank  
 Gaskill, Tiny  
 Gee, Emma  
 Gee, Wesley  
 Gerry, Bernard  
 Gerry, Lucy  
 Gerry, Thomas  
 Gerry, William  
 Gibson, Alice  
 Gibson, Edna  
 Gibson, Emma  
 Gibson, Hattie  
 Gibson, Mary  
 Gibson, Willie  
 Gilfillan, Alice  
 Gondeu, Genevieve  
 Gondeu, Harrold  
 Gondeu, Leon  
 Gonyeu, Helen  
 Goodnater, Frank  
 Goodnater, Mary  
 Goodnater, Truman  
 Goss, Celia  
 Goss, Charles  
 Goss, Eleanor  
 Goss, George  
 Goss, Gordon  
 Goss, Henry  
 Goss, Leaverett  
 Goss, Martha  
 Goss, Mary  
 Goss, Philip  
 Goss, Samuel  
 Goss, William  
 Green, Amy  
 Green, Anna M.  
 Green, Lilla  
 Grey, Charlie  
 Grey, Clem  
 Grey, Harlen  
 Grey, Isaac  
 Guyette, Louise  
 Hall, Elgie  
 Hall, Fannie  
 Hall, George  
 Hall, Peter  
 Hall, Walter  
 Haney, Mary  
 Hannett, Clarence  
 Hannett, Elwin  
 Hannett, Ida  
 Hannett, Leonard  
 Hannett, Mary  
 Hannett, Paul  
 Hardy, Martha  
 Harris, Carrie  
 Hart, Ina  
 Hart, Maria  
 Hart, Vianna  
 Hart, William  
 Hastings, Fannie  
 Heath, Andrew  
 Heath, Clara  
 Heath, Clarence  
 Heath, George  
 Heath, Helen  
 Heath, Laurestine  
 Heath, Lena  
 Heath, Justin  
 Hill, Blanche  
 Hill, Edna  
 Hill, Flora  
 Hill, Willie  
 Hoffman, Amelia  
 Hoffman, Elizabeth  
 Hoffman, Grace  
 Hoffman, Jennie  
 Holmes, Henry  
 Horn, Alice  
 Horn, Emmaletta  
 Houghton, Aurilla  
 Houghton, Clara  
 Hovey, Luther  
 Hovey, Richard  
 Hoyt, Mamie  
 Hoyt, Ada  
 Hoyt, Alden  
 Hoyt, Barnard  
 Hoyt, Charles  
 Hoyt, George  
 Hoyt, Grace  
 Hoyt, Hittie  
 Hoyt, J.  
 Hoyt, Lena  
 Hoyt, Loanda  
 Hoyt, Martha  
 Hoyt, Nellie  
 Hubbard, Charles  
 Hubbard, Daniel  
 Hubbard, Martha  
 Hubbard, Martin  
 Hubbard, Moulton  
 Hutchinson, Charles  
 Ingerson, Elena  
 Jeffers, Ed.  
 Jeffers, Julia  
 Jeffers, Nellie  
 Jeffers, Rose  
 Jeffers, William  
 Jenkins, Florence  
 Jenkins, Perley  
 Jones, Abial  
 Jones, Albert  
 Jones, Albinus  
 Jones, Amy  
 Jones, Charles  
 Jones, Daniel  
 Jones, Emmeline  
 Jones, Eva  
 Jones, Grace  
 Jones, Hannah  
 Jones, Hattie  
 Jones, Henry  
 Jones, John  
 Jones, Martha  
 Jones, Mary  
 Jones, Mercie  
 Jones, Samuel  
 Jones, Sarah  
 Jones, Stephen  
 Jones, Walter  
 Jones, William  
 Kelly, Isaac  
 Kelsey, Hiram  
 Kennedy, Alice  
 Kennedy, Carrie  
 Kennedy, Ella  
 Kennedy, Frank  
 Kennison, Maud  
 Keogh, Eleanor  
 Keogh, Harley  
 King, Emily  
 King, Silvia  
 Kittredge, James  
 Knapp, Jennie  
 Laird, Caroline  
 Laird, Elizabeth  
 Laird, Jefferson  
 Laird, Ralph  
 Laird, Thaxter  
 Lasure, Annette  
 Leach, Hazel  
 Leavitt, Mary Ann  
 Leonard, Alvin  
 Leonard, Carrie  
 Loan, Carrie  
 Locklin, Hattie  
 Locklin, Rachel  
 Lougie, Mary  
 Lowell, Bertha  
 Lowell, Dean  
 Lynch, Edward  
 Lynch, John  
 Lynch, Mary  
 Lynch, William  
 Magoon, Alice  
 Magoon, Edward M.  
 Magoon, Eva  
 Magoon, Hattie  
 Magoon, Horace  
 Magoon, Marie  
 Magoon, Mary  
 Magoon, Roxsaina  
 Magoon, Sally  
 Magoon, Sully  
 Mathews, Bethuel  
 Mathews, Inez  
 Mathews, Luther  
 Mathews, Ray  
 Mathewson, Annette  
 McDowell, Belle  
 McDowell, Edith  
 McDowell, Frank  
 McDowell, Lee  
 McDowell, Rose  
 McGovern, Agnes  
 McGovern, Charles  
 McGovern, Matie  
 McGovern, William  
 McKenzie, Sammy  
 Melvin, Marie  
 Merrill, Belle  
 Merrill, Carrie  
 Merrill, Perley  
 Meserve, Charles  
 Meserve, Henry  
 Meserve, Mary  
 Meserve, Nathaniel  
 Meserve, Warren  
 Miles, Alanson  
 Miles, Beniah  
 Miles, Horatio  
 Miles, Mathilda  
 Miles, Wesley  
 Mitchell, Daniel  
 Mitchell, John  
 Mitchell, Smith  
 Mitchem, Etta  
 Mitchem, Willie  
 Moody, Elizabeth  
 Moody, Ella  
 Moody, Wedgewood  
 Mooney, Charles A.  
 Mooney, Charles  
 Mooney, Howard  
 Mooney, Marion  
 Mooney, William J.  
 Moore, Leon  
 Moore, Louis  
 Morgan, Marie  
 Morrill, Amos  
 Morrill, Emily  
 Morrill, Sarah  
 Morrill, Simon  
 Morse, Leon  
 Mosher, Charles  
 Mosher, Philip  
 Moulton, Charles  
 Moulton, Clara  
 Moulton, Fred  
 Moulton, Jennie  
 Nelson, Christine  
 Nelson, Wilmot  
 Newland, Pansy  
 Noyes, Almeda  
 Noyes, Charles  
 Noyes, Florence  
 Noyes, George W.  
 Noyes, Herbert  
 Noyes, Herman  
 Noyes, Minnie  
 Noyes, Myrtle  
 Noyes, Sadie  
 Noyes, Warren  
 Noyes, William  
 Ordeon, Alvena  
 Ordeon, Emma  
 Ordeon, Lillian  
 Peak, Addie  
 Peak, Clara



## TOWN OF WHEELOCK

Peak, Ethel  
 Peak, Ralph  
 Pell, Simon  
 Perkins, Ellen  
 Perkins, Eugenia  
 Perkins, Martha  
 Perkins, Winona  
 Pierce, Carrie  
 Pierce, John  
 Pierce, Lulu  
 Pinkham, George  
 Pinkham, Mary  
 Porter, Althea  
 Porter, Esther  
 Porter, Lellace  
 Porter, Lorraine  
 Porter, Mary  
 Porter, Sarah  
 Porter, Sophia  
 Rivers, Ellen  
 Rivers, Nelson  
 Rogers, Carrie  
 Rogers, Charles  
 Rogers, Susie  
 Russell, Clarence  
 Russell, Ella  
 Russell, Frank  
 Ryan, Ellen  
 Ryan, Jennie  
 Sanderson, Calista  
 Sanderson, Corilla

Sanderson, Richard  
 Shattuck, Bowman  
 Shattuck, Homer  
 Shattuck, Paul  
 Shattuck, Solon  
 Sherburn, Agnes  
 Sherburn, Almira  
 Sherburn, Carroll  
 Sherburn, Ella  
 Sherburn, George  
 Sherburn, Harley  
 Sherburn, Henry  
 Sherburn, Wilber  
 Simons, Fred  
 Simons, Hazel  
 Slack, Imogene  
 Smith, Will  
 Stanhope, Arnold  
 Stanhope, Darwin  
 Stanhope, Lillian  
 Story, Eleanor  
 Story, Elsie  
 Sylce, Archie  
 Sylce, Flora  
 Sylce, John  
 Sylce, Josephene  
 Sylce, Sophia  
 Taylor, Fred  
 Taylor, William  
 Thomas, Edward  
 Thomas, Hattie

Thompson, John  
 Thompson, Sally  
 Thrasher, Ruth  
 Wakefield, . . . .  
 Ward, Almeda  
 Ward, Nathaniel  
 Ward, Thaddeus  
 Wark, Charles  
 Wark, Fred  
 Wark, Maggie  
 Wark, Minnie  
 Warner, George  
 Weed, George  
 Weeks, George  
 Weeks, John  
 Wheeler, Andrew  
 Wheeler, Arthur  
 Whitten, Ella  
 Whitten, Mary  
 Willey, Almon  
 Williamson, Rachel  
 Wood, John  
 Wooley, Emma  
 Wooley, Hattie  
 Wooley, Helen  
 Wooley, John  
 Wooley, Joseph  
 Wooley, Wayne  
 Young, Alice  
 Youngman, Harvey  
 Youngman, Melissa

## SOCIAL AND FRATERNAL

COL. BARNEY POST, G. A. R.

Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 58, was organized May 19, 1882 and held regular meetings on the Wednesday of the week on which the moon full.

The post took its name from Col. Elisha Barney of Swanton, Vt., who entered the Union Army as Captain, Company K, 6th Vermont Regiment and was promoted to Major on Oct. 15, 1862; Lt. Colonel, Dec. 18, 1862, and Colonel, March 18, 1863. He died May 10, 1864 of wounds received at the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864.

Wheelock members at the time of the muster with the Grand Army of the Republic were:

John G. Aldrich  
 Joseph Barber  
 George W. Bean  
 William W. Bean  
 Archibald Craig  
 Edward J. Dana  
 Isaac Gray  
 Jesse G. Gray  
 Daniel S. Jones  
 William H. Jones  
 Henry LaPoint

Austin Miles  
 William J. Ranney  
 Edwin J. Reed  
 James W. Bryan  
 John Sheldon  
 Levi A. Smith  
 M. S. Staples  
 J. L. Whitney  
 Edwin A. Williams  
 David Woods

## OTHER VILLAGE GROUPS

Other organizations in Wheelock through the years have been Riverside Grange, No. 305, Patrons of Husbandry; International Order of Good Templars; Junior Order of United American Mechanics; Village Improvement Society; Community Club.

## Chapter XLII

# Burial Grounds

. . . Home is the sailor, home from the sea  
And the hunter home from the hill.  
. . . . R. L. Stevenson

At the second town meeting in Wheelock Mar. 11, 1793 another important step in founding a new town met with consideration.

VOTED to choose a committee to look out a place as near the center of the town as can be conveniently had, of about two acres and a half of land for a burying-place and public parade, and to see how and at what price it may be had for; and to make a return at an adjournment of this meeting.

CHOSE Dudley Sweasy, Abraham Morrill and Thomas Noyes as a committee for the above purpose of looking out a place for the burying-place and parade agreeable to the above vote.

(*Child's Gazetteer for Caledonia and Essex* p. 383)

Under date of Apr. 8, 1793 is the following record:

The committee which was appointed for the purpose of looking out a spot of land suitable for a burying-place near the center of said town made report that they had looked at two places, one on the east and one on the west end of Mr. Samuel Sargent's land, where he lives. A vote was passed in favor of the place on the east near a great brook, but after further talk and consideration on the subject, the above was reconsidered, and whereas it was thought that a road four rods wide would be laid out between Mr. Sargent's and two lots of land, that the place for the burying-place should be on said road near the middle from east to west, and that the place should contain two acres on the south side of the said road, eight rods wide and twenty rods long on said road, and another piece on the opposite side of the road, four rods wide, so that taking the roads will make the piece twenty rods each way. (*Child's Gazetteer*, p. 383)

Available records do not tell just where Samuel Sargent lived. He may have been a tenant working the land of an absentee owner or leaseholder. It is generally supposed that this first burying-place was near the old meetinghouse at the center of the township. There is no known evidence of its existence today.

Either because of delay in setting out a public burying place, or from a wish to continue the old New Hampshire custom, many of the early settlers

family burial grounds were continued, but most of them were not used after a few years. Some disappeared through neglect; others were abandoned when the bodies were removed elsewhere to an established public cemetery.

were buried on their home farms. Some of these

A few such isolated burial grounds are still known, wrote O. D. M. years ago. There are two small mounds near the pasture fence back of the Welch place on the road to Lyndon that are supposed to be graves of two of Joseph Harris's children. In the field across the road from Martin Sinon's house was a family burial lot, possibly that of the Elkins family, but now obliterated.

The few common field stones that mark several graves on the left side of the Piperville road a little west of Ramsay Corner are now dignified by a bronze marker on a granite monument and a new cedar rail fence. It is not known for a certainty who was buried there.

The knoll at the north end of the bridge below the present village cemetery was an early burial place. Although most of the bodies have since been removed, a bronze marker, placed by Ferd Chase, commemorates the spot as the resting place of two early settlers who had served in the Revolutionary War.

Several members of the Noyes Family were buried in the pasture at the west of the County road, where a brook running into Chandler Pond crosses it.

On the County Road near the Danville line is the Shattuck cemetery, where nearly all the grave stones bear the family name, or those who married into it. The white fence and gates are still standing and the shiny green leaves and blue flowers of the myrtle that once clothed the mounds have long since spread far and wide through the encroaching woods.

Not far from the Danville town line, on the road that connects that town with the Mountain school, is the Horne burying place. And there were burial plots on the Benjamin Bean farm on the north side of the Mountain road.



## SOUTH WHEELOCK

As far as can be determined, the oldest public cemetery that has been maintained through the years is that at South Wheelock. Family tradition claims that it was part of the farm of Abner Hoyt and, as he wished to be buried on his own land, he gave that part to the town sometime prior to his death in 1803, possibly in the same year.

"That such a site should have been chosen for a burial ground," commented Martin E. Daniels in 1949, "shows how precious land was considered by these first settlers."

The Red Schoolhouse Association did much to keep this cemetery in good condition and the graves are still neatly tended. Today, the swampy ground that surrounds the cemetery is abundant with native orchids, which have crept through the fence to decorate the graves of the native heroes of the Revolutionary War and those of other early settlers.

The most unique marker of all is a thin field stone set firmly on edge in the ground, with this brief, but comprehensive, inscription rudely chisled:

T. H. Exit N. 6, 1811.

## DROWN CEMETERY

In contrast to the South Wheelock cemetery, the Drown cemetery, at the north edge of Wheelock not far from the Sheffield town line, is the victim of shameful neglect. Although one of Mr. Chase's monuments bears an arrow pointing in the direction of the cemetery, it is now almost impossible to reach it from the road. The burial place itself has lost its fence and is rapidly becoming one with the surrounding woods. Trees at least eight feet tall rise above the graves and a thick growth of underbrush and ferns has tumbled the stones at all angles. It is supposed to have derived its name from Samuel Drown, a Revolutionary soldier, but other families also used it as a burial place and it seems useful to include here the list compiled by O. D. Mathewson years ago when the stones were legible.

Lydia, wife of Jonathan Taylor, died Aug. 18, 1823, aged 33

William Harrison Taylor, son of Jonathan and Lydia, died Dec. 1835, aged 23

Ephraim Pearl, died May 24, 1842, aged 23

Robert Morrison, died June 30, 1820, aged 52

Rhoda, wife of Robert Morrison, died April 9, 1811, aged 47

Nicholas Pearl, died Sept. 27, 1838, aged 50

Mary, daughter of Nicholas and Joanna Pearl, died May 7, 1845, aged 19

Mary, wife of E. Hines and daughter of Anna and Stephen Morgan, died Oct. 22, 1824, aged 24

Children of Stephen and Anna Morgan

Sally, died Oct. 20, 1813 (or 1818), aged 18 mos.

James N., died Feb. 28, 1815, aged 22 mos.

Ensign M., died Feb. 26, 1829, aged 18 mos.

Polly, wife of William Gray, died Jan. 19, 1839, aged 40 yrs., 7 mos.

James Gray, died Mar. 15, 1841, aged 24 yrs., 1 mo., 19 days

Lydia, wife of Eliphalet Gray, died Apr. 9, 1830, aged 40 yrs., 8 mos., 6 days

"My husband, children one and all

Attend unto the solmen call

And when around my grave you meet

Remember I have fell asleep.

As I am now so you must be

Prepare for death and follow me."

Betsey, daughter of Eliphalet and Lydia Gray, died Oct. 4, 1822, aged 17 yrs., 6 mos., 4 days

Dr. Cyrus Root, died Feb. 23, 1827, aged 46 yrs., 1 mo., 22 days

Samuel Drown (?)

Gideon Leavitt

## WEST WHEELOCK

The markers in the West Wheelock cemetery indicate a time years ago when this part of the township was more heavily populated than now. The following list was compiled over forty years ago and may now serve as a guide for stones that have become increasingly hard to read.

Herbert, eldest son of Rev. A. W. and Elizabeth Robinson, died Feb. 20, 1863, aged 10 yrs., 10 mos. 13 days

Nancy E., daughter of J. and P. Folsom, died May 15, 1849, aged 2 yrs., 3 mos.

Joseph D., son of D. and B. J. Hines, died Mar. 11, 1877, aged 25 yrs.

Freddie D. Gochie, son of F. and J. A. Gochie, died Feb. 8, 1897, aged 6 days

Iris E., wife of Charles Miles, died Nov. 17, 1874, aged 21 yrs., 4 mos., 4 days

Albion W. Garfield, son of J. and M. Garfield, died Jan. 22, 1863, aged 7 yrs., 7 mos.

Esther, wife of John Garfield, died June 9, 1852, aged 47 yrs.

Maria Perrin, wife of John Garfield, died Sept. 12, 1896, aged 72 yrs., 2 mos., 4 days

Elvira Garfield, wife of Frederick Leavitt, born Jan. 9, 1826; died Oct. 25, 1907

Elder John Garfield, died Jan. 8, 1878, aged 76 years

Alonzo B. Garfield, son of R. C. and S. Garfield, died Nov. 26, 1862, aged 5 yrs., 2 mos.

Mary Leavitt, daughter of Dudley Leavitt and Hannah Leavitt, died Mar. 6, 1845, aged 25 yrs.

John Thornton, died June 16, 1854, aged 27 yrs.

Iris E. Horner, daughter of J. P. Cool, born June 8, 1876; died Feb. 25, 1904

Eugene F. Horner, 1851-1881

Infant Horner son, died 1871

Leon W. Horner, 1872-1886

Eugene O. Horner, 1881-1905

Perces L., wife of Stephen R. Nelson, died Oct. 1, 1862, aged 21 yrs.

Samuel Cool, born Dec. 13, 1809; died Mar. 23, 1879

Louisa, wife of Samuel Cool, born May 23, 1815; died Nov. 22, 1878

James P. Cool, born May 2, 1846; died Feb. 13, 1905

Eliza J. Cool, wife of James P. Cool, died Aug. 17, 1891, aged 53 yrs., 3 mos.

Eri S. Cool, son of James P. and Eliza Cool, died Sept. 19, 1896, aged 16 yrs., 1 mo., 16 days

Leon W. Smith, son of Levi and Marcia A. Smith, died Nov. 8, 1862, aged 2 yrs., 7 days

Abbie L. Bean, daughter of Joseph and Lodema A. Bean, died May 30, 1864, aged 3 yrs., 3 mos.

Eva A. Bean, daughter of Joseph and Lodema Bean, died July 4, 1856, aged 1 yr., 7 mos.

Jonas Flagg, died Mar. 31, 1845, aged 83 yrs., 21 days

Jonas Flagg, Jr., died Apr. 6, 1869, aged 78 yrs., 8 days

Joanna Flagg, wife of Jonas Flagg, died July 27, 1872, aged 78 yrs.

Mrs. Lucy, wife of Isaac Hardy, died Dec. 13, 1840 in her 52nd year

Arthur M. Berry, son of Elisha F. and Judith M. Berry, died Dec. 16, 1866, aged 5 yrs., 10 mos., 26 days

Judith Morrison, died July 4, 1847, aged 39 years  
David Dwyer, 1803-1895

Emily Dwyer, wife of David Dwyer, 1804-1863

Huldah A., daughter of Benaiah S. and Huldah Miles, died June 21, 1839, aged 10 mos., 8 days

Roy E. Drew, Apr. 5, 1886-Apr. 16, 1886)

Maud U., Aug. 29, 1890-Jan. 19, 1892 )  
children of H. S. and Martha A. Drew

Maud Emily, daughter of Clyde E. and Nellie E. Chamberlain, born Mar. 18, 1894; died Apr. 9, 1894

Florence M. Flynn, born Oct. 25, 1905; died Mar. 20, 1909

Ray E. Flynn, born Oct. 21, 1904; died Oct. 23, 1904

Samuel J. Flagg, son of James and Joanna Flagg, died July 19, 1816, aged 7 mos., 18 days

Mary A. Allen, wife of Lyman Allen, died Oct. 22, 1881, aged 29 yrs.

#### WHEELOCK HOLLOW

The original cemetery at Wheelock village was given to the town by Ward Bradley. He reserved a row of lots across the middle of it for his family and descendants. Mrs. Jonathan Bradley was the first to be buried in this cemetery. Now four generations of the family are represented there.

As the village cemetery remains well taken care of and the stones are repaired and legible, it is unnecessary to include a list of the different markers here. A new cemetery has been set out on the right of the Mineral Spring road, as there was no longer space in the old one.

#### BURIALS IN OTHER TOWNS

In addition to Sheffield, Danville, Lyndon, and Sutton also provided the final resting place for many Wheelock inhabitants. Both Danville Green and North Danville cemeteries have graves of the earliest settlers of Wheelock, especially those, such as the Hoyt, Sweasy and Chamberlin families who first were associated with Danville.



## BURIALS IN SHEFFIELD

Among the out-of-town cemeteries where Wheelock families are buried are two in Sheffield; the village cemetery and the so-called Ingalls Cemetery. The latter is reached from Wheelock by a continuation of the Mineral Spring road. After reaching the height of land, it is necessary to pass

*Sheffield Cemetery*

Joseph Ingalls, born July 30, 1818; died May 25, 1892

Dolly M. Townsend, wife of Joseph Ingalls, born May 30, 1819; died Mar. 29, 1905

Samuel G. Cofran, died Feb. 10, 1858, aged 39

Sarah A. Pearl, wife of Samuel Cofran, died Nov. 19, 1910, aged 90 yrs., 6 mos.

Joshua Hill, born in Candia, N. H., died Sept. 2, 1860, aged 77 yrs., 3 mos., 29 days

Rhoda Flanders, wife of Joshua Hill, died Aug. 13, 1872, aged 71 yrs., 4 mos., 13 days

children:

Cynthia J. died Nov. 26, 1862, aged 21 yrs., 4 days

Sally Adeline, died Nov. 2, 1849, aged 13 yrs., 2 mos., 23 days

Charles, died May 3, 1831, aged 2 yrs., 11 mos., 9 days

also two small markers without names

James Townsend, died Aug. 2, 1867, aged 78 years, 7 mos.

Zerviah, wife of James Townsend, died Jan. 21, 1855, aged 65 yrs., 7 mos.

William F. Townsend, died in St. Louis, Mo. June 9, 1859, aged 32

Sarah Townsend, died May 18, 1868, aged 78

Ruth M. Townsend, died April 19, 1892, aged 63 yrs., 8 mos.

Zerviah, wife of John Ferguson, died Apr. 8, 1899, aged 82 yrs.

through a barway at the north side of the road and travel west through a long field before reaching the burying place. Long rows of graves are marked only by field stones with no inscriptions. Others have marble markers, among which are these relating to Wheelock families and others.

*Ingalls Cemetery, Sheffield*

Sally, wife of David Drown, died Apr. 2, 1843, aged 66 yrs., 11 mos.

George Jenness, died July 17, 1831

Mary, wife of George Jenness, died June 1, 1821, aged 21

John Jenness, died Feb. 26, 1806, aged 65

Josiah Miles, died Nov. 10, 1844, aged 63 yrs., 4 mos.

Hannah W. Gray, wife of Josiah Miles, died Jan. 20, 1836, aged 44 yrs., 8 mos.

Benjamin Conners, died Aug. 5, 1865, aged 84 yrs.

Jemima, wife of Benjamin Conners, died Oct. 28, 1820, aged 38

Oliver Willard, son of Samuel and Margaret Willard, died Jan. 13, 1838, aged 1 yr., 8 mos., 6 days

Dolly, wife of Micajah Willey, died April 1, 1827, aged 25 yrs., 8 mos.

John Simpson, died Feb. 10, 1877, aged 76 yrs., 11 mos.

Mary, wife of John Simpson, died Feb. 19, 1827, aged 24 yrs., 9 mos., 9 days

Lydia, wife of John Simpson, died May 31, 1872, aged 65 yrs., 4 mos., 12 days

Hiram H. Simpson, son of Hiram and Sarah Simpson, died Sept. 2, 1865, aged 2 yrs., 11 mos., 16 days

Mark French, died Apr. 28, 1831, aged 22 yrs., 5 mos., 5 days

Jacob Welch, died Mar. 28, 1831 in 58th year of his age

Lois (?), daughter of Jacob and Lois Welch, died Nov. 28, 1825, aged 11 years

## HISTORIC MARKERS

*(Gift of Ferd Chase)*

PLACED IN 1916

- 1 Site of the Emerson Schoolhouse
- 2 Here was the schoolhouse known as the Barnard Hoyt District
- 3 In District No. 4, first schoolhouse where the Grange Hall stands, 1910; second, was erected here in 1815; third was erected here 1838 moved beyond the Meeting house 1853; fourth, on the hill, erected 1861
- 4 Here stood the Follett Schoolhouse, abandoned 1843
- 5 The site of the Old Red Schoolhouse erected 1861; restored 1915
- 6 Marks the site of the first meeting house for religious worship, erected 1796; was used for town meetings until 1854; freeman's meetings until 1866; Town Hall building erected 1871.
- 7 Site of first burying place at Wheelock Hollow, used as late as 1814; two soldiers of the American Revolutionary War rest here; one has a British bullet in his body.
- 8 1776—Soldiers buried in this cemetery (South Wheelock) Ephraim Bigelow, Ebenezer Chandler, Moses Darling, Edward Magoon, Abner Hoyt, Thomas Townsend, 1812—Mesach Darling, Eli B. Magoon. Erected by Ferd Chase.
- 9 (Arrow) to the Samuel Drown burying ground
- 10 (Arrow) Ramsay Corner; to the Ramsay Corner burying ground
- 11 The Horn Burying Place
- 12 (Arrow) Site of the first sawmill in town, erected 1795 by Isaac Stanton
- 13 Site of grist mill and distillery erected by Timothy Chamberlin about 1790
- 14 Col. John Chase's Inn, 1812
- 15 Site of the old Morgan Schoolhouse
- 16 (Arrow) First blacksmith shop stood near the pine tree, erected by Joseph Harris
- 17 Here was the birthplace of Elder Jonathan Woodman, 1798
- 18 This is to the memory of Horace Goss who constructed The Mountain Road
- 19 Col. John Chase had his carding mill on this waterfall
- 20 Here stood the potato whiskey still and potash factory, erected by Samuel Weeks about 1794
- 21 This marks the site of Fifield Tavern
- 22 First frame house in town stood here, erected by Abner Hoyt
- 23 Benjamin Noyes burying ground
- 24 (Arrow on a mill stone) Near here the Samuel Noyes mill, on Noyes Brook, manufactured wooden ware, hay rakes, mop sticks, and ground corn.
- 25 The town pound, a place to detain stray domestic animals. William H. Jones lifelong pound keeper; erected 1796



## WHEELOCK MEN IN SERVICE

*World War I**Army*

Blodgett, Earle Francis, 1st Class Pvt.

Blodgett, Lawrence W., Pvt.

died in service of tuberculosis  
(War Dept. credits to Lyndonville)

Currier, Harold E., Pvt.

(War Dept. credits to Lyndonville)

Dean, Carroll Everard, discharged from Draft,  
no service

(War Dept. credits to St. Johnsbury)

Dunning, John Hermon, Pvt.

Fuller, Monte H.

died of wounds March 30, 1918  
(War Dept. records Torrington, Conn.)  
buried in Sheffield, Vt.

Harris, Raymond J.

Nelson, Moulton H.

Reed, Edwin William

wounded in action. Croix de Guerre, Nov. 11, 1918  
(War Dept. credits to Torrington, Conn.)

St. Louis, Eugene, Pvt.

(War Dept. credits to Greensboro Bend)

*Marine Corps*

Welsh, Lyman George

(Official records credit to Idaho)

(supplied by Vt. Adjutant General's Office 1936)

*World War II*

Davis, Carroll Everet

Deos, Charles Donald

Jones, Richard Edward

Labbey, Leonard A.

McFarland, Richard O.

St. Louis, Harold

Sanborn, Paul Clifton

*Korean Conflict*

Brown, Francis Howard

Deos, Francis Henry

Deos, Louis Raymond

LaFlamme, Edward Arthur

Mathewson, Hugh Jenkins

Sanborn, George Warner

Smith, David Ralph

Smith, Delford C.

## TOWN SELECTMEN

Year			
1792	Dudley Swasey	Abraham Morrill	Joseph Venen
1793	Abraham Morrill	Thomas Noyes	Gideon Leavitt
1794	Col. John Bean	Abraham Morrill	Abner Hoyt
1795	Abraham Morrill	Dr. William Guy	Lt. Amos Sawyer
1796	" "	Col. John Bean	Jonathan Dow, Esq.
1797	" "	Dr. William Guy	Col. John Bean
1798	" "	John Bean	John Boynton
1799	" "	" "	Abner Hoyt
1800	" "	Joseph Venen	Joshua Bangs
1801	" "	Joshua Weeks	Abner Morrill
1802	" "	" "	Col. John Bean
1803	" "	Abner Morrill	John Bean, Esq.
1804	" "	" "	Ward Bradley
1805			
1806	Abraham Morrill	Elijah Sargent	Ebenezer Thompson
1807			
1808	Joshua Weeks	Elijah Sargent	Abraham Morrill
1809	Joshua Bangs	Ward Bradley	Abraham Morrill
1810	John Bean, Jr.	Ebenezer Thompson	John Elkins
1811	" "	" "	" "
1812	" "	Ward Bradley	" "
1813	" "	Samuel Fellows, Jr.	Abner Morrill
1814	John Elkins	" "	Ward Bradley
1815	Ward Bradley	John Elkins	Josiah Lane
1816	John Elkins	Samuel Fellows	Abner Morrill
1817	" "	Ward Bradley	Barnard Hoyt
1818	" "	Abner Morrill	John Chase
1819	" "	" "	" "
1820	Bradley Leavitt	William Smith	Abijah Porter
1821	Dudley Leavitt	Abijah Porter	William Smith
1822	Abner Morrill	Jonathan Taylor	" "
1823	" "	William Smith	Jonathan Taylor
1824	Moses Davis	Jonathan Taylor	Horace Evans
1825	Jonathan Taylor	Abner Morrill	Dudley Clark
1826	Abner Morrill	Dudley Clark	Jonathan Taylor
1827	William Smith	Richard Stevens	Sewall Bradley
1828	" "	" "	" "
1829	David Darling	Abner Morrill	Jonathan Taylor
1830	" "	Sewall Bradley	Abner Morrill
1831	Sewall Bradley	Jonathan Taylor	Dudley Clark
1832	Dudley Clark	Charles Mathewson	Elisha Davis, Jr.
1833	Elisha Davis, Jr.	Jonathan Taylor	Charles Mathewson
1834	" "	" "	" "
1835	David Darling	" "	Elisha Davis, Jr.
1836	Jonathan Taylor	Elisha Davis, Jr.	Samuel Bigelow
1837	" "	Samuel F. Shattuck	Hiel Bradley
1838	David Darling	Samuel Bigelow	William Sanborn
1839	" "	" "	Edward M. Magoon



1840	Samuel Bigelow	Edward M. Magoon	William Chase
1841	Edward M. Magoon	William Chase	Samuel F. Shattuck
1842	" "	Samuel F. Shattuck	Jonathan Sanborn
1843	William Chase	" "	John Cochran
1844	Sewall Bradley	Edward M. Magoon	Samuel Nelson
1845	" "	Nathaniel Hart	" "
1846	Nathaniel Hart	Joseph F. Darling	Edward M. Magoon
1847	" "	Charles Mathewson, Jr.	Samuel D. Gray
1848	Charles Mathewson, Jr.	Samuel D. Gray	Johnson Bean
1849	Samuel D. Gray	Charles Rogers, Jr.	Charles Sanborn
1850	Edward M. Magoon	Charles Rogers, Jr.	Samuel F. Shattuck
1851	Charles Rogers, Jr.	Charles Sanborn	Calvin Chase
1852	" "	Asa B. Hubbard	Samuel Nelson
1853	Asa B. Hubbard	Samuel Nelson	Samuel H. Jones
1854	Sewall Bradley	Ezra F. Darling	" "
1855	Samuel H. Jones	Elijah Willard, Jr.	George Flagg
1856	Elijah Willard, Jr.	Calvin Chase	James S. Porter
1857	Calvin Chase	James S. Porter	Samuel D. Gray
1858	James S. Porter	William B. Jones	Alvin T. Conner
1859	William B. Jones	Samuel Nelson	Franklin Davis
1860	Alvin T. Conner	" "	" "
1861	Samuel Nelson	Charles Welch	Charles Rogers, Jr.
1862	Charles Welch	Charles Rogers, Jr.	Calvin Chase
1863	Charles Rogers, Jr.	Calvin Chase	Ferdinand Darling
1864	Calvin Chase	Ferdinand Darling	Edward M. Magoon
1865	Charles Rogers, Jr.	William B. Jones	George Giffin, Jr.
1866	" "	George Giffin, Jr.	Lorenzo D. Leavitt
1867	" "	" "	" "
1868	George Giffin, Jr.	William B. Jones	Charles Welch
1869	William B. Jones	Charles Welch	James McGaffey
1870	" "	" "	" "
1871	" "	Thomas A. Hoyt	Jesse G. Gray
1872	Jesse G. Gray	" "	Wilbur A. Robinson
1873	Henry Hoffman	William Morgan	Sanford D. Gray
1874	" "	" "	" "
1875	Sanford D. Gray	Thomas Chandler	Walter H. Chase
1876	Thomas Chandler	Walter H. Chase	Benjamin E. Squires
1877	" "	Benjamin E. Squires	Merritt D. Welch
1878	Benjamin E. Squires	Merritt D. Welch	Ferdinand Darling
1879	Merritt D. Welch	Ferdinand Darling	Samuel Gray
1880	Ferdinand Darling	Samuel D. Gray	Benjamin F. Taylor
1881	Samuel D. Gray	Benjamin F. Taylor	James S. Porter
1882	B. F. Taylor	James S. Porter	Joseph Patch
1883	James S. Porter	Joseph Patch	William Morgan
1884	Joseph Patch	William Morgan	N. E. Chandler
1885	B. F. Taylor	N. E. Chandler	Edwin K. Hill
1886	N. E. Chandler	Edwin K. Hill	Myron D. Parks
1887	Edwin K. Hill	Myron D. Parks	Daniel S. Jones
1888	Myron D. Parks	N. E. Chandler	E. C. Mathewson
1889	Daniel S. Jones	Archibald Craig	Samuel D. Gray

1890	Archibald Craig	William H. Jones	W. H. Fadden
1891	" "	" "	" "
1892	" "	" "	Walter H. Weeks
1893	Walter H. Weeks	N. E. Chandler	Joseph Barber
1894	George Mitchem	George Gerry	James S. Drew
1895	" "	" "	N. E. Chandler
1896	N. E. Chandler	George Mitchem	Lafayette Leavitt
1897	" "	" "	" "
1898	" "	" "	George Barber
1899	Merritt D. Welch	George Barber	N. E. Chandler
1900	" "	" "	George Mitchem
1901	George Mitchem	Archibald Craig	Charles G. Meserve
1902	A. J. Rennie	W. W. Bean	H. J. Mathewson
1903	James A. McDowell	H. J. Mathewson	L. D. Leavitt
1904	" "	" "	" "
1905	H. J. Mathewson	Charles A. Hoyt	Fred Hoffman
1906	Charles A. Hoyt	Fred Hoffman	Charles G. Meserve
1907	" "	Charles G. Meserve	L. D. Leavitt
1908	H. J. Mathewson	L. D. Leavitt	C. G. Mooney
1909	L. D. Leavitt	Charles A. Hoyt	C. D. Gray
1910	Charles A. Hoyt	C. D. Gray	L. D. Leavitt
1911	C. D. Gray	L. D. Leavitt	G. E. Green
1912	L. D. Leavitt	G. E. Green	C. D. Gray
1913	G. E. Green	C. D. Gray	L. D. Leavitt
1914	C. D. Gray	L. D. Leavitt	George L. Gerry
1915	L. D. Leavitt	George L. Gerry	A. E. Weed
1916	G. L. Gerry	H. J. Mathewson	L. D. Leavitt
1917	H. J. Mathewson	L. D. Leavitt	G. L. Gerry
1918	L. D. Leavitt	Roy C. Bickford	H. J. Mathewson
1919	L. D. Leavitt	Roy C. Bickford	C. A. Welch
1920	R. C. Bickford	C. A. Welch	L. D. Leavitt
1921			
1922	L. D. Leavitt	Martin Sinon	Charles Welch
1923	Charles Welch	Martin Sinon	L. D. Leavitt
1924	Martin A. Sinon	James P. Rock	L. D. Leavitt
1925	Martin A. Sinon	James P. Rock	L. D. Leavitt
1926	J. P. Rock	L. D. Leavitt	Martin A. Sinon
1927	James P. Rock	L. D. Leavitt	Martin A. Sinon
1928	Martin A. Sinon	L. D. Leavitt	W. C. Snelling
1929	W. C. Snelling	L. D. Leavitt	Martin A. Sinon
1930	W. C. Snelling	Martin A. Sinon	L. D. Leavitt
1931	L. D. Leavitt	Martin Sinon	W. C. Snelling
1932	Alexander Dwyer	Martin Sinon	W. C. Snelling
1933	Alexander Dwyer	Martin Sinon	W. C. Snelling
1934	Alexander Dwyer	Martin Sinon	W. C. Snelling
1935	Alexander Dwyer	W. C. Snelling	Gordon Smith
1936	Alexander Dwyer	Gordon Smith	Timothy Buckley
1937	Roy Bickford	Timothy Buckley	Gordon Smith
1938	Roy Bickford	Timothy Buckley	Gordon Smith
1939	Roy Bickford	Gordon Smith	Stephen C. Cree
1940	Roy Bickford	Gordon Smith	Stephen C. Cree



## TOWN OF WHEELOCK

1941	Roy Bickford	Stephen C. Cree	James P. Rock
1942	Roy Bickford	James P. Rock	Stephen C. Cree
1943	Stephen C. Cree	James P. Rock	Clyde Playful
1944	Arthur Bailey	Eri Leavitt	H. H. Stahler
1945	Arthur Bailey	Eri Leavitt	H. H. Stahler
1946	Spelman Prentice	Leon Knapp	H. C. Ingalls
1947	Herbert Stahler	Leon Knapp	H. C. Ingalls
1949	Arthur Pratt	Eri Leavitt	Arthur Bailey
1950	Arthur Pratt	Eri Leavitt	Arthur Bailey
1951	Arthur Pratt	Arthur Bailey	Kenneth Flood
1952	Arthur Pratt	Kenneth Flood	Lucien Leroux
1953	Harold Ingalls	Lucien Leroux	Cecil Smith
1954	Harold Ingalls	Lucien Leroux	Dewey Deos
1955	Harold Ingalls	Lucien Leroux	Dewey Deos
1956	James P. Rock	Lucien Leroux	Dewey Deos
1957	James Rock	Albert Peak	Russell Stahler
1958	James P. Rock	Albert Peak	Russell Stahler
1959	Lucien Leroux	Russell Stahler	Albert Peak
1960	Lucien Leroux	Albert Peak	Kenneth Hopp
1961	Lucien Leroux	Albert Peak	Kenneth Hopp

## WHEELOCK TOWN OFFICERS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
1792	Dudley Swasey	Abraham Morrill	
1793	Gideon Leavitt	" "	
1794	Col. John Bean	" "	Col. John Bean
1795	Abraham Morrill	Dr. William Guy	Gideon Leavitt
1796	Col. John Bean	Abraham Morrill	" "
1797	" "	" "	Dr. William Guy
1798	" "	" "	Jonathan Dow
1799	" "	" "	John Boynton
1800	John Bean	" "	Jonathan Dow, Esq.
1801	Col. John Bean	" "	John Bean, Esq.
1802	" "	" "	Abner Hoyt
1803	" "	" "	Col. John Bean
1804	Abner Morrill	" "	Joshua Weeks
1805			
1806	Col. John Bean	Ephraim Chamberlain	Capt. Joshua Weeks
1807			
1808			
1809	Jeremiah Hidden	John Bean, Jr.	Jeremiah Hidden
1810	" "	" "	" "
1811	" "	" "	Edward Fifiel
1812	" "	" "	" "
1813	Ephraim Bigelow	" "	Joshua Weeks
1814	Samuel Fellows, Jr.	" "	Edward Fifiel
1815	Nathan Hines	" "	Ephraim Chamberlain

	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
1816	Abner Morrill	Josiah Lane	Ward Bradley
1817	Moses Darling	" "	" "
1818	" "	" "	" "
1819	Barnard Hoyt	" "	" "
1820	Nathan Hinds	" "	" "
1821	Horace Evans	Josiah Lane	Ward Bradley
1822	Abner Morrill	" "	" "
1823	" "	" "	" "
1824	" "	" "	" "
1825	" "	" "	" "
1826	" "	" "	" "
1827	" "	" "	" "
1828	David Darling	" "	" "
1829	Abner Morrill	" "	" "
1830	" "	" "	" "
1831	" "	" "	" "
1832	Samuel Bigelow	" "	" "
1833	Benjamin Conner	" "	Hiel Bradley
1834	" "	" "	" "
1835	James Roberts	" "	" "
1836	" "	" "	" "
1837	James Roberts, Jr.	John W. Brown	" "
1838	" "	" "	" "
1839	Hiel Bradley	" "	" "
1840	Benjamin Conner	" "	" "
1841	" "	" "	" "
1842	" "	" "	" "
1843	Samuel Bigelow	" "	" "
1844	Benjamin Conner	" "	Sewall Bradley
1845	" "	" "	" "
1846	Johnson Bean	" "	" "
1847	" "	" "	" "
1848	Joseph F. Darling	" "	" "
1849	Sewall Bradley	" "	" "
1850	Joseph F. Darling	John W. Brown	Sewall Bradley
1851	" "	" "	" "
1852	" "	" "	" "
1853	Sewall Bradley	" "	" "
1854	" "	William Chase	" "
1855	Samuel Davis	" "	H. A. Quimby
1856	T. Jefferson Cree	" "	" "
1857	" "	" "	T. Jefferson Cree
1858	" "	" "	" "
1859	" "	" "	" "
1860	" "	" "	" "
1861	" "	" "	" "
1862	Calvin Chase	" "	" "
1863	T. Jefferson Cree	" "	" "
1864	" "	" "	" "
1865	" "	" "	" "



## TOWN OF WHEELOCK

	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
1866	T. Jefferson Cree	William Chase	T. Jefferson Cree
1867	" "	" "	William Chase
1868	Charles Rogers, Jr.	" "	" "
1869	T. Jefferson Cree	" "	" "
1870	Charles Rogers, Jr.	" "	" "
1871	" "	" "	" "
1872	T. Jefferson Cree	" "	" "
1873	" "	Charles Rogers, Jr.	Charles Rogers, Jr.
1874	" "	" "	" "
1875	" "	" "	" "
1876	" "	" "	" "
1877	" "	" "	" "
1878	" "	" "	" "
1879	" "	" "	" "
1880	William Hart	Charles Rogers, Jr.	Charles Rogers, Jr.
1881	William Chase	" "	" "
1882	William Hart	" "	" "
1883	" "	" "	" "
1884	" "	" "	" "
1885	" "	" "	" "
1886	" "	" "	" "
1887	" "	" "	" "
1888	" "	" "	" "
1889	D. B. Leslie	" "	" "
1890	William Hart	" "	" "
1891	" "	" "	" "
1892	" "	" "	" "
1893	" "	" "	" "
1894	" "	Lucius N. Cree	Charles H. Garland
1895	" "	" "	Hollis B. Welch
1896	" "	" "	" "
1897	" "	" "	" "
1898	" "	" "	" "
1899	D. B. Leslie	" "	" "
1900	" "	" "	" "
1901	" "	" "	" "
1902	" "	" "	Merritt Welch
1903	" "	S. G. Cree	" "
1904	" "	" "	" "
1905	" "	" "	" "
1906	" "	" "	" "
1907	" "	" "	" "
1908	" "	" "	" "
1909	" "	" "	" "
1910	D. B. Leslie	S. G. Cree	Merritt Welch
1911	" "	" "	" "
1912	" "	" "	" "
1913	" "	Alma L. Welch	Alma L. Welch

	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
1914	Charles Welch	Alma Welch Grady	Alma Welch Grady
1915	" "	" "	" "
1916	" "	" "	" "
1917	S. W. Drake	" "	" "
1918	" "	" "	" "
1919	" "	" "	" "
1920	James P. Rock	" "	" "
1921	" "	Alexander Dwyer	Alexander Dwyer
1922	James P. Rock	L. N. Cree	Charles Miles
1923	" "	" "	" "
1924	" "	" "	" "
1925	" "	" "	" "
1926	Henry H. Hoffman	" "	" "
1927	James P. Rock	" "	" "
1928	Timothy Buckley	Alexander Dwyer	" "
1929	James P. Rock	" "	" "
1930	" "	" "	" "
1931	" "	" "	" "
1932	" "	" "	" "
1933	" "	" "	" "
1934	" "	" "	Warner M. Willey
1935	" "	Dorothy M. Cree	Flora B. Willey
1936	" "	" "	" "
1937	" "	Stephen C. Cree	" "
1938	" "	Madelene Miles	" "
1939	" "	" "	" "
1940	James P. Rock	Earl Miles	Flora B. Willey
1941	" "	" "	" "
1942	" "	" "	" "
1943	" "	" "	" "
1944	" "	Ethel A. Rock	Marion Sanborn
1945	C. J. Sanborn	" "	" "
1946	James P. Rock	" "	George Bickford
1947	" "	" "	Marion Sanborn
1948	" "	" "	" "
1949	" "	" "	" "
1950	Eugene St. Louis	" "	" "
1951	" "	" "	Mrs. Arthur Bailey
1952	" "	Cynthia Pratt	Cynthia Pratt
1953	" "	Marion Sanborn	Marion Sanborn
1954	" "	" "	" "
1955	" "	Phyllis Elliott	Phyllis Elliott
1956	" "	" "	" "
1957	" "	Grace Stahler	Raymond Poulin
1958	" "	" "	" "
1959	" "	" "	" "
1960	Eugene St. Louis	Marian L. Peak	Raymond Poulin
1961	Eugene St. Louis	Marian L. Peak	Raymond Poulin



## TOWN REPRESENTATIVES

1794	Col. John Bean	1837	Jonathan Nelson	1880	Charles Rogers
1795	Col. John Bean	1838	William Sanborn	1881	Charles Rogers
1796	Col. John Bean	1839	Samuel Bigelow	1882	Daniel S. Jones
1797	Abraham Morrill	1840	Samuel Bigelow	1883	Daniel S. Jones
1798	Abraham Morrill	1841	Edward M. Magoon	1885	Daniel S. Jones
1799	Col. John Bean	1842	Hiel Bradley	1886	Hollis B. Welch
1800	Abraham Morrill	1843	Sewall Bradley	1888	Charles Rogers
1801	Abraham Morrill	1844	Sewall Bradley	1890	Stephen G. Cree
1802	Abraham Morrill	1845	Nathaniel Hart, Jr.	1892	Walter H. Weeks
1803	Abraham Morrill	1846	Richard Stevens	1894	no election
1804	Abraham Morrill	1847	Nathaniel Hart, Jr.	1896	Archibald Craig
1805	Col. John Bean	1848	T. Jefferson Cree	1898	D. B. Leslie
1806	Abraham Morrill	1849	T. Jefferson Cree	1900	Lucius N. Cree
1807	Samuel Fellows, Jr.	1850	Edward M. Magoon	1902	Fred Hoffman
1808	Abraham Morrill	1851	Edward M. Magoon	1904	Fred Hoffman
1809	Col. Edward Fifield	1852	Charles Rogers, Jr.	1906	Curtis G. Mooney
1810	Col. Edward Fifield	1853	Charles Rogers, Jr.	1908	William W. Bean
1811	Abner Morrill	1854	Charles Rogers, Jr.	1910	D. M. McLean
1812	Abraham Morrill	1855	Calvin Chase	1912	Timothy Buckley
1813	Samuel Fellows, Jr.	1856	William Chase	1914	Lafayette Leavitt
1814	Elijah Sargent	1857	William Chase	1915	L. D. Leavitt
1815	Abner Morrill	1858	Albertus Allen	1917	Samuel W. Drake
1816	Samuel Fellows, Jr.	1859	William B. Jones	1919	H. J. Mathewson
1817	Samuel Fellows, Jr.	1860	Samuel A. Nelson	1921	John Buckley
1818	Abner Morrill	1861	Charles Rogers	1923	Catherine E. Buck
1819	Abner Morrill	1862	Charles Rogers	1925	Martin A. Sinon
1820	Israel Porter	1863	Osborne Ward	1927	Alexander Dwyer
1821	Israel Porter	1864	Osborne Ward	1929	Warner M. Willey
1822	Abner Morrill	1865	Jonathan Woodman	1931	Dorothy M. Cree
1823	Israel Porter	1866	Elijah Willard	1933	James P. Rock
1824	Abner Morrill	1867	Elijah Willard	1935	Martha L. Dwyer
1825	Abner Morrill	1868	George Giffin, Jr.	1937	Roy C. Bickford
1826	Josiah Lane	1869	George Giffin, Jr.	1939	Dewey O. Deos
1827	Josiah Lane	1870	Jesse G. Gray	1941	Earl F. Blodgett
1828	Abner Morrill	1871	Jesse G. Gray	1943	Joyce B. Cree
1829	Abner Morrill	1872	Jesse G. Gray	1945	Mary A. E. Deos
1830	Abner Morrill	1873	Jesse G. Gray	1947	Earl F. Blodgett
1831	Israel Porter	1874	Sanford G. Gray	1949	Harold C. Ingalls
1832	Benjamin Conner	1875	Sanford G. Gray	1951	H. Herbert Stahler
1833	Benjamin Conner	1876	Lorenzo Sulloway, Jr.	1953	Harold C. Ingalls
1834	Benjamin Conner	1877	Lorenzo Sulloway, Jr.	1955	Melvin D. Hudson
1835	Benjamin Conner	1878	Charles Rogers	1957	Melvin D. Hudson
1836	William Sanborn	1879	Charles Rogers	1959	George Sherburne
				1961	George Sherburne

## WHEELOCK POPULATION

1792	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870
32	568	964	906	834	881	856	832	822
1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960
829	596	567	500	526	412	293	287	244





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St. Johnsbury  
1867  
St. Johnsbury 1827  
Freewill Baptist Society  
Danville  
St. Johnsbury  
St. Johnsbury  
St. Johnsbury  
  
Windsor  
Montpelier  
Lyndonville

# Index

A.			
Abbott, William	79	Brown, John W.	89, 105, 110, 111, 156
Adventist Society	146	Brown, Nathaniel	137, 156
Aikens, Judge Asa	13, 27, 28, 88, 92, 93	Brown, Robert	84
Albany County	6	Buck, S. A.	153
Aldrich, W. J.	51, 181	Buckley, Cornelius	199
Allard, David	190	Buckley, Walter	180
Allen, Albertus	51, 152	Burke, Vt.	81, 135
Allen, Ira	19, 29, 121	Butter	68, 92
Allen, John	51	Buzzell, Elder Aaron	135
Allen, Samuel	57, 150, 174, 177		
American Botanist & Family Physician	122, 161, 165	C.	
Annance, Noel	78	Cahoon, Maj. Gen. William	82
Articles of Agreement Morrill & Wheelock	17	Caledonia County	1, 3, 4, 11
Asheries	69, 70, 73	Caledonia Mineral Spring Hotel	166
Atwood, David	64	Cambridge, Mass.	71
Atwood, Rev. Mark	128	Campbell, Aunt Chloe	143
Ayer, Jonathan	61	Canterbury, N. H.	17, 29, 48, 176
Ayer, Samuel	71, 116, 155	Carding Mill	152
		Carriage makers	156
B.		Carriage, taxed	104
Babbitt, Dr. Winthrop	122	Carter, Dr. Americus J.	123, 166
Babbitt, Uri	122	Carter, Annie Yosemite	123
Bagley, Elijah	45	Carter, Benjamin	84, 179
Bagley's Stand	47	Carter, Ezra	75, 148
Bamf	6, 29	Carter, George A.	123
Bangs, Joshua	44	Carter, Mary	123
Bank Bills	79	Carter, Oscar E.	123
Banyer, Goldshaw (Goldsbro)	6	Carter, Roscoe	123
Barber, Asa	156	Cate, Lt. James	31, 43
Barnet, Town of	6, 8, 19, 53, 56, 83	Cate, Lucy	31
Barney, Col. Elisha	202	Census, 1790	30
Bartlett, Samuel Colcord	94	Census, 1800	31
Barton, Vt.	47, 55	Chadwick & Sawyer	157
Bates, Henry C.	126	Chamberlain, Prof. Wm.	41, 164
Baxter, Camp, St. Johnsbury	185	Chamberlin, Ephraim	48, 108
Bayley, Frye	4, 6	Chamberlin, Timothy	81
Bayley, Col. Jacob	4, 6	Chandler, Aaron	138
Bean, Austin	141	Chandler, Ebenezer	1, 135
Bean, Col. John	40, 43, 46, 136, 148	Chandler, John	2
Bean, John, Jr.	44, 85, 103, 113	Chandler, Judge, Peachan	77
Bean, Joseph	31	Chandler, Moses	140, 141
Bean's Tavern	164	Chandler, Natt	2, 141
Bean, William W.	141, 147	Chandler, Thomas	141, 171
Bean Pond	1	Chandler Pond	1, 2
Bells, church	145	Charlestown, Mass.	29, 71, 134
Bickford, H. D.	156	Charter Trees	30
Bickford, H. S.	178	Charter of Wheelock	15, 105
Bickford, R. C.	181	Chase, Ada	185
Bigelow, Samuel	49, 182	Chase, Calvin	50, 58, 105, 175
Billymead, Town of	8, 16, 96	Chase, Ferdinand W.	117, 130, 148, 152, 177, 179, 189
Blacksmiths	156	Chase, Henry	185
Blaisdell, Daniel R.	92, 106	Chase's Inn	164
Blake, Calvin	118, 156, 158	Chase, Col. John	45, 50, 73, 90, 113, 149, 152, 164
Blake, Dr. W. C.	123	Chase, William	50, 178, 189
Boody, Elder Joseph	135, 136	Chelmsford, Mass.	99
Boody, Joseph, Jr.	135	Chesley, Jim	155
Boots & Shoes	155, 157	Choirs, church	146
Borough Brook	1, 148	Clark, Fairbanks & Co.	62, 68, 73, 145
Boston Times	62	Clark, Augustine	97, 125
Bowles, Elder Nathaniel	136	Clark, Dudley	35, 58, 110
Boynton, John (Boington)	44, 107, 148	Clark, John	61, 73
Erackett, Ichabod	108, 169	Clark, Luther	61, 70, 73
Brackett, Simeon	44	Clark, Rev. Dr. Thomas, Salem, N. Y.	6, 29
Bradley, Charlotte	182	Cobblers	155
Bradley, Hiel	49, 64, 116	Cochran (Coffran), John	140
Bradley, Horace	49, 94	Cochran, John A.	192
Bradley, Jonathan	33, 60	Cochran, Joseph	113
Bradley, Sewall	49, 64, 105	Cochran, Peter W.	45, 109, 139
Bradley, Ward	45, 58, 60, 88, 99, 108, 142, 176	Cochran, Samuel G.	206
Bradley, Warren	49, 178	Colby, Elder John	135
Brown, Calvin	57	Colden, Cadwallader	6
Brown, Pres. Francis	76, 87, 88	Columbia, Conn.	13
		Concord, N. H.	99



Concord Lower Landing	99
Concord R. R.	100
Congregational Society	144
Connecticut River Union	11, 14
Conner, Alvin	177
Conner, Benjamin (Judge)	42, 48, 73, 113, 125, 177
Conner, Martin V. B.	116, 192
Cookville, (Corinth), Vt.	60
Cooke, Daniel	60
Coopers	156, 157
Counterfeit money	79
County Road	56
Crafts, Samuel	79
Craig, Archibald	118
Cree, Lucius N.	152
Cree, Luther	117, 152
Cree, Stephen C.	181
Cree, Stephen G.	117, 141, 143, 152, 179, 189
Crce, Thomas Jefferson	43, 50, 92, 101, 105, 106, 116, 118, 125, 143, 157, 165, 166, 174, 189, 190
Curtis, John	19, 44
Curtis, William	45

# D.

Dana, Dr. Daniel	23, 76, 88
Daniels, Abram	85, 141
Daniels, Martin E.	85, 137, 180
Danville, Vt.	11, 17, 25, 56, 83, 96, 99, 125, 165
Darling, David	58, 137
Darling, Ferdinand	85, 141
Darling, Meshach	45, 85, 170
Darling, Moses	84, 108, 119
Darling, Samantha (Weeks)	111, 139, 141
Dartmouth College	8, 10, 13, 40, 75, 93, 94, 103
Dartmouth College Agents	80
Dartmouth College Alumni Assn. of Boston & Vicinity	93
Dartmouth College Case	76, 88, 89
Dartmouth College Grants	8, 14, 15, 93
Dartmouth College Scholarship	95
Dartmouth, Lord	13
Davis, Alexander	132
Davis, Bliss	126
Davis, Charles H.	126, 186
Davis, Elisha, Jr.	58, 110
Davis, Hiram	155
Davis, Joseph	64, 99
Davis, Moses	109, 142
Davis, Ozora S.	94, 132
Davis, Samuel	132, 144
Dean, Noah	152, 155, 164, 178
Deos, Dr. Harland	95
Deos, Harley	165, 173
Derby, Vt.	56, 83, 96
Distilleries	81
Dodge, Elder Reuben	136
Dogs	41
Dow, Abbie, seamstress	157
Dow, Annie	31
Dow, Elsie	157
Dow, Hannah	157
Dow, Jonathan	43, 108
Dow, Perkins	31
Dow, "Quaker" Josiah	57, 142, 157, 175
Dow, Thomas	43
Doyle, Martin	164, 178
Drake, S. W.	155
"Draw land"	90
Dresden, N. H.	13, 14
Drown, Horace	178
Drown, Samuel	204
Drown Cemetery	204
Dunbar, David (Danville)	96
Dunmore (N. Y. Grant)	9

# E.

Ear of corn	19
Eastman, Beri	149

Eastman, Eli	58, 149
Eastman, John	149
Eastman, Welcome B.	201
Eaton, Ebenezer (Danville printer)	58, 97
Eaton, Samuel Jr., printer	62
Edgerly, Thomas	96
Edgerton, carpenter	136
Edmunds Essay	189
Elkins, John	90
Elkins, Nathaniel	184
Elkins, Stephen O.	185
Emerson, Austin	97, 148
Emerson, Delia	138
Essex County Branch R. R.	125
Evans, Horace	74, 109
Exuma salt	156

# F.

Fairbanks, E. & T.	68, 73
Fairbanks, Erastus	73, 74, 101, 113, 119, 125, 144, 145
Fairbanks, Horace	125
Fairbanks, Joseph P.	73
Fairbanks, Thaddeus	73
<i>Farmer's Herald</i>	62, 92
Felker, David	85
Felker, Jesse	85, 156
Fellows, Samuel	45, 90, 132
Fellows, Samuel, Jr.	47, 103, 109, 177, 182
Fiddlers	164, 178
Fifield, Lt. Col. Edward	47, 82, 84, 103, 148, 177
Fifield, Samuel	82
Fifield's Tavern	46, 47, 82, 164
Flagg, Jonas	32
Flagg, Jonas, Jr.	84
Flagg Pond	1
Fletcher, W. C.	165
Floods	171, 172
Florence, Italy	69
Follett, Samuel	57, 84, 179
Folsom, Henry M.	156
Folsom, Dr. James D.	130
Folsom, Jonas	60
Folsom, Theophilus, Jr.	113, 155, 182
Foss, Jacob	85, 140
Freeman, Jonathan	28, 75
Freeman, Peyton	75
Freewill Baptist	135
French, James	189
French, Obediah	109

# G.

Galusha, Gov. Jonas	82, 83
Gaskill, Silas	160
Gee, Alanson	157, 183
Gerald, Carley	155, 156
Gerrish, P.	175
Giffin, George, Jr.	105, 143, 146
Gilman, Edward	73, 152
Gilman, Nellie Hoyt	174
Gilman, Samuel	55
Glines, Lt. James	40
Gloucester County	11
Gold	175
Goodman, Saville & Kent	70
Goshen Gore	2, 3, 144
Goss, Charles H.	73, 199
Goss, Horace C.	59, 111, 157
Grady, Alma Welch	179
Grand Trunk R. R.	125, 126
Grant of Wheelock	8, 15
Gray, George	107, 172
Gray, James (Ryegate)	6
Gray, Jeremiah	144
Gray, Jesse G.	60
Gray, Dr. Reuben	123, 152
Gray, William	58, 85
Gristmills	148, 149

Groom, John (hatter) 68  
 Guy, Dr. William 43, 45, 148, 183

# H.

Haines, Stephen 45  
 Hanover, N. H. 13, 14, 77  
 Harris, Joseph 156  
 Hart, Nathaniel, Jr. 49  
 Hart, William 50, 138, 139, 185  
 Harvey, Col. Alexander 6, 19, 21  
 Harvey, Darius 62  
 Hatch, Elder Hosea 136  
 Hats 64, 66, 68, 73, 157, 158  
 Haverhill, N. H. 13, 56  
 Hawkins, Jeriah 169  
 Hawkins, Olney 169  
 Hawkins, Stephen 169  
 Hawkins Horse 169  
 Hayward, (Howard) Nathaniel 43  
 Haywards, the 41  
 Heath, George 150  
 Heath, John 45  
 Heath, Justin 141  
 Heath, Lauristine (Chandler) 138  
 Hemingway, Samuel 84  
 Henderson, Rev. M. C. 128, 142, 185  
 Henderson, Ola 128  
 Hewitt, Abram 125  
 Hicks, Elder Peleg 135, 136  
 Hill, Ambrose 174  
 Hill, James 30  
 Hill, Joshua 110  
 Hines, John 194  
 Hines, Lyndon 31, 83  
 Hines, Nathan 45, 113  
 Hinman, Timothy 56  
 Hogs (restrained) 41, 58  
 Hopkins, Pres. Ernest 94, 95  
 Horn, James 56  
 Horn, Jethro 165  
 Horn Cemetery 203  
 Horses 169  
 Hosmer, Stephen 58, 116  
 Hosmer, Zelotes 74, 145, 146  
 Hotel 71, 158, 164, 177  
 Hoyt, Abner 29, 44, 69, 97, 148, 183  
 Hoyt, Abner, Jr. 75  
 Hoyt, Barnard (Barnèt) 29, 44, 45, 69, 107  
 Hoyt, Charles 167  
 Hoyt, Grace 132  
 Hoyt, Dr. Hiram P. 123  
 Hoyt, Joseph 120, 139  
 Hoyt, Thomas 46, 69, 176  
 Hoyt, Thomas, Jr. 29, 69, 157, 183  
 Hoyt, Walter 45, 83  
 Hubbard, Dr. Asa B. 123  
 Hubbard, Rufus M. 105  
 Hunter, The 170  
 Hurricane, 1938 173  
 Hutchinson, Charles 133  
 Hutchinson, David 155  
 Hutchinson, Emma 139

# I.

Indians 1, 2, 13, 14, 27, 28, 76, 161  
 Indian canoe 1  
 Indian Charity School (Moors) 13, 14, 15, 24, 27  
 Indian corn 23  
 Indian students, Dartmouth College 14, 27, 28  
 Indian War 83  
 Ingalls, Charles 152  
 Ingalls, Hollis 117  
 Ingalls, Joseph 149  
 Ingalls Cemetery, Sheffield, Vt. 206

# J.

Jackson, Elder Daniel 142  
 January First 92, 93, 178  
 Jewett, Dr. Luther 62  
 Jones, Charles W. 156  
 Jones, Daniel S. 51, 184  
 Jones, Henry 42, 51, 109, 110, 184  
 Jones, Martha 157  
 Jones, Mercy (Mathewson) 51  
 Jones, Dr. Samuel A. 123  
 Jones, Samuel H. 51, 108, 122  
 Jones, Sarah (Hazeltine) 51  
 Jones, Stephen Mathewson 111, 137, 184  
 Jones, William B. 42, 51, 110, 183  
 Jones, William H. 51, 150  
 June Training Day 177

# K.

Kettles 70  
 Kidder, Rev. Thomas 145  
 Kimball, Benjamin (hatter) 66  
 Kimball, George 183  
 Kinnaston, Isaac, Jr. 70

# L.

Lamb, Alfred 178  
 Lamoille River 1, 4, 56  
 Lane, Joseph 45, 108  
 Lane, Joshua 119  
 Lane, Josiah 45, 48, 138  
 Lawsuits, Dartmouth College and lessees in Wheelock 77, 78  
 Leach, John Wheelock 30  
 Leach, Samuel 30, 31  
 Leases 19  
 Leavenworth, Dr. Frederick 45, 119, 122, 182  
 Leavenworth, Col. Jesse 21  
 Leavenworth, Jesse, Jr. 45, 109, 122, 137  
 Leavenworth's Stand 122, 164  
 Leavitt, Asa 116, 182  
 Leavitt, Dudley 42  
 Leavitt, Gideon 31, 40, 135  
 Leavitt, Gideon, Jr. 31, 113  
 Leavitt, Mary 123  
 Lebanon, Conn. 13, 14  
 Leslie, Danforth B. 123, 149, 152  
 Leslie, Walker C. 161, 166  
 Lewis, George W. 68, 71  
 Libraries 176  
 Little, Col. Moses 6, 9  
 Lord, Rev. Dr. Nathan 27, 28, 92, 93, 94  
 Lumber dealers 151  
 Lyceums 184  
 Lynch, Dr. Edward 133, 199  
 Lynch, Rev. John 133, 199  
 Lyndon Academy 186  
 Lyndon, Vt. 1, 16, 31, 47, 96, 121  
 Lyon, Matthew 21

# M.

Magoon, Capt. Edward 85  
 Magoon, Edward M. 49, 105, 110, 150  
 Magoon, Eli B. 84, 85  
 Magoon, Israel Porter 49, 150  
 Magoon, Perkins 170  
 Maple Sugar 68, 70, 81, 104, 157, 158  
 Mathewson, Achsa 117, 118  
 Mathewson, Arthur 152  
 Mathewson, Azro 105  
 Mathewson, Charles 58, 85  
 Mathewson, Epaphras C. 132  
 Mathewson, Dr. Harley P. 117, 152  
 Mathewson, Ozias D. 195  
 Mathewson, Ozias Danforth 43, 94, 132, 148, 179, 180, 181, 189  
 Mathewson, Philip 57, 182  
 Mathewson, Smith P. 57  
 Mathewson, Stephen S. 62



Mathewson State Forest	57	Orange County	11
Mathewson, Thomas	57, 103, 113	Orcutt, Rodney	179
Mattocks, Gov. John	79, 82, 83	Otis, Joshua	86
McDowell, James	150	Otis, Thomas	43
McGaffey, James	117	Otis, Samuel	86
McGaffey, Philip	58, 116	Oxen	66, 78, 99, 149, 170
McGovern, Charles A.	133		
McKenzie, "One-armed"	156	P.	
McQuillan, Ira	57, 116, 156	Page, Elder Benjamin	127, 135, 136, 177
Meetinghouse	40, 43	Page, Joseph	29
Meigs, Anson	121	Page, Dr. William	11
Meigs, Heman	121	Pangborn, Doctor	182
Meigs, Dr. John	61, 108, 121, 148, 163	Passumpsic River	1, 4, 56
Melvin, Aaron	105, 151, 156	Passumpsic & Connecticut Rivers R. R.	74, 101, 125, 130
Melvin, Aaron, Jr.	105, 165	Passumpsic Valley Advertiser	62
Melvin, Moses	108, 169	"Paying up the crowns"	19
Merrimac Boating Co.	99	Peacham, Vt.	4, 53, 56, 75, 77, 96, 175
Methodist Society	143, 146	Pearlashes	69, 70
Middlesex Canal	99, 101	Perkins, Levi	110
Miles, Archaelus	1, 56	Perkins, Capt. Robert	108, 109
Miles, John	177	Perley, (Judge) Henry	92, 149
Miles, Josiah	37, 64	Perry, Joseph	88
Miles, Obediah	155	Petitions	89, 90
Miller's Run	1	Pews, vendue of	43, 45
Millerites	174	Phelps & Crossman	61
Mill owners	149, 151	Phelps, Frederick	73
Miner, Caleb	151	Phillips, Nehemiah	45, 55
Monroe, "Dr." John	122, 161, 165	Pillsbury, David	32, 40
Montreal, P. Q.	64	Pine-Tree Creamery	152
Moor, Joshua	13	Piperville	56, 58, 84
Moors Charity School	8, 10, 11, 13, 17, 27, 28, 75, 103	Plows	62, 68
Morgan, Justin (horse)	169	Poland, Judge Luke	106
Morgan, Nathaniel	60, 105	Poor Care	41
Morgan, Stephen	56, 62, 64, 109, 142	Porter, Aaron	61, 70, 108
Morgan, William	147	Porter, Isaac	61
Morrill, Abigail	29	Porter, Israel	48
Morrill, Abner	45, 47, 90, 103, 108, 137	Porter, Loraine	138
Morrill, Abraham	17, 18, 19, 21, 29, 40, 43, 75, 103, 108, 148, 177	Portland, Me.	64, 71, 156
Morrill, David	45	Postmasters	97
Morrill, Horatio	165	Post Rider	97
Morrill, Sen. Justin	126	Potato Whiskey	81, 137
Morrill, Laban	48	Poundkeepers	42
Morrill, Maria Wheelock	30	Powers, Mrs. Hazel	52
Morrill, Sargent	17	Putnam, Elder Benjamin	136
Morrill, Susannah	47		
Morris, Maj. Gen. Lewis R.	82	Q	
Morrison, Jonathan	122	Quimby, Curtis	172
Moulton, Elder Avery	136	Quimby, Elder Daniel	136
Musical Convention, St. Johnsbury	185	Quimby, H. A.	65, 97
		Quimby, John	96
		Quimby, Romanzo	184
N.			
Nelson, George	47, 55	R	
Nelson, Elder Jonathan	49, 109, 144	Railroads	101, 125
Nelson, Orin	116, 131, 150, 189	Rake Shop	148
Nelson, Samuel A.	51, 116, 184	Ramsay, Bob	30
Nerey, Dr.	121	Ramsay Corners	30, 61
Newell, Flora	130	Ramsay Corner Burying Ground	121, 203
Newell, Dr. Selim	130	Randall, Elder Benjamin	135
New Hampshire Iron Factory, Franconia	70	Rennie, Alden J.	150, 165, 189
New Stirling	6	Rennie, J. R.	149
Niles, Ephraim	31, 37, 55	Riley, George	61
North Star	77, 96	Roads, first map of	54
Nerwich, Vt.	14	West	55, East 55
Noyes, Benjamin F.	56	County	56
Noyes, Samuel	148	Hollow	57
Noyes, Thomas	43, 107, 177	Roberts, James Jr.	116, 164
Nuslin, Elder	145	Reck, James P.	55, 172
		Rogers, Calvin	52
O.		Rogers, Charles	126
Observations on Fact	15, 25	Rogers, Charles, Jr.	50, 105, 126, 149, 174
Occum, Samson	13	Root, Betsey	122
Odiorne	29, 139	Root, Dr. Cyrus	42
Olcott, Mills	89, 100	Root, Edward Fifield	122
Old Mill	148, 149	Russian iron	61
Old Red Schoolhouse Assn.	132, 138	Ryegate, Vt.	6, 19, 56, 96
Old Shed	151, 157		

## S.

Sabbath School, S. Wheelock	139
St. Johnsbury, Vt.	6, 9, 45, 51, 64, 73, 82, 83, 122, 126, 130, 131, 133, 136, 169, 170, 171, 172, 177
St. Louis, Eugene	180
Salem, N. Y.	6, 29
Salt drying	156
"Salts"	69, 70
Sanborn, Dr. Beniah	130, 151
Sanborn, Benjamin	130
Sanborn, Elisha	182
Sanborn, John	45, 48, 55, 141, 151, 166
Sanborn, Jonathan	43, 48
Sanborn, Jonathan Hobbs	48
Sanborn, Thomas	45, 48
Sanborn, William	48
Sanderson, D.	150
<i>Santa Maria</i>	10, 11
Sargent, Dominicus	45, 48
Sargent, Elijah	48, 108
Sargent, Samuel	48
Sawyer, Amos	56
Sawyer, N. D.	156
Scholarships	93, 94
Scots-American Co.	19
Scottish United Co. of Farmers	19
Sewall & Salisbury	61
Shattuck, Amos	150
Shattuck, Anson	110
Shattuck, Obil	56, 109
Shattuck, S. F.	170
Shattuck, Simeon	182
Sheep	170
Sheeting & footing	62
Sheffield, Vt.	55, 83, 135, 168
Sherburn, David	140
Sherburn, Erastus	140
Sherburn, George	140, 157
Sherburn, Harley	175
Sherburn, Henry	30, 64, 109
Sherburn, James	64, 77, 99
Sherburn, John	100, 175
Shoemakers	155
Silver, Horace	177
Sinon, Martin	173, 203
Sleigh makers	156
"Sociables"	143
Southmayde, Ebenezer	1
Spanish coins	175
Spring, Doctor, Dartmouth College	88
Stagedrivers	164
Stanley, Timothy	56
Stannard, Vt.	59
Stanton, Isaac	148
Starch, factory	152
Stetson, Amanda	131
Stetson, Thomas	149
Stevens, Richard	49, 174
Stevens, Lt. Samuel	4
Stiles, Dr. Truman R.	123
"Store court"	65
Storehouse, for Dartmouth College grain	56, 75, 76, 77, 79, 178
Story, Rev. Horace	128, 137
Stowe & Waterhouse	151
Suhm, Gov. Christian	11
Suhm, Maria	11
Sulloway, Jacob	57
Sulloway, Lorenzo	117, 155, 178
Sulloway, Lorenzo, Jr.	131, 157
Sulloway, Ralph	131
Sulphur Springs	165
Swanton, Vt.	4, 84, 133
Sweasy, Apphia	29
Sweasy, Dudley	29, 40, 44, 107, 177, 203
Sweasy, Joseph	107
Swedish Iron	61

## T.

Tanneries	152, 157
Taverns	92, 100, 164
Taylor, Benjamin F.	131
Taylor, Frank	181
Taylor, Fred	131
Taylor, Jonathan	131
Taylor, Jonathan, Jr.	58, 131
Taylor, Judge Wm. H.	2, 19, 94, 161, 179
Teamsters	64, 99, 100, 101
Thompson, Elder Ebenezer	136
Threshing machines	151, 152
Town Officers, pay	41, 119
Townsend, James	49
Townsend, Thomas	49
Tucker, Alanson	61, 66
Turk's Island	156
<i>Twenty-Five</i>	9
Tyler, Dr. Bennett	76, 89
Tyson Furnace Teamster	70

## U.

Underwood, lawyer in Wells River, Vt.	70
United Farmers of Scotland	6

## V.

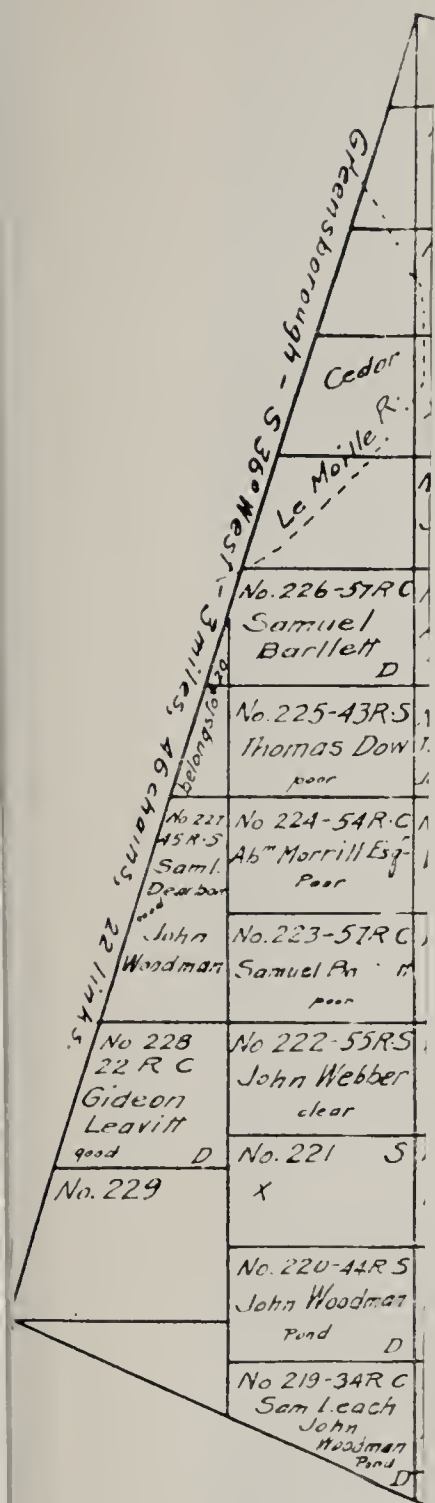
Vail, Theodore N.	1, 132, 171
Vendues	43, 45
Venen, John	40, 53, 55, 57, 155
Venen, Joseph	40, 44, 53, 164
Venen's Tavern	164
Vermont Grant to Dartmouth College	8, 15

## W.

Wakefield, Amos	114, 152
Walter, Abigail	81
Walter, Augustus	81
Ward, Daniel H.	151
Ward, Osborne	51, 118, 151
Wark, Charles	138
Wark, Fred	138
"Warned out of town"	41, 122
Watches, taxed	103
W. C. T. U. dedications	178, 180
Weeks, Ezekial	149
Weeks, John	149
Weeks, Jonathan	152
Weeks, Capt. Joshua	57, 79, 103, 113, 148
Weeks, Peasley	156
Weeks, Samuel	81, 149, 170
Weeks, Susannah	148
Weeks, Dr. Walter W.	123
Weeks's Mills	62, 107
Wells, Moses	20, 22
Wells River, Vt.	3, 70
Wentworth, Benning	90
Wentworth, John	13, 14
West, Benjamin	155
Wheeler, Arthur	138
Wheeler, Daniel	170, 185
Wheelock, Rev. Eleazar	8, 13, 14, 28
Wheelock, James	88
Wheelock, Pres. John	8, 11, 14, 17, 25, 27, 28, 40, 75, 87
Wheelock, Maria Malleville	11
Wheelock, Maria Suhm	11
Wheelock, Mfg. Co.	
1st	151, 152
2nd	152
Wheelock Quarterly Meeting	135
Wheelock Scholarship	95
Wheelock Writ	25, 27
White, Ira, bookseller	64
White, John	45, 113
Whitelaw, James, Esq.	1, 6, 19
Willard, Elijah	51, 180
Willard, Elijah, Jr.	51, 57, 166, 180



Willard, Frances E.	57, 166, 180	Woodman, Archaelus	107, 148
Willard, Josiah F.	178, 180	Woodman, Dea. John	51, 56, 130
Willard, Mary Thompson Hill	180	Woodman, Elder Jonathan	51, 127, 130, 178, 185, 187
Willard, Oliver A.	51, 57, 180	Woodman, Peter	57, 142
Willey, David	156	Woodward, Bezaleel	23, 76, 79
Willey, Rev. Elijah F.	78	Woodward, Wm. H.	27, 76, 88
Willey, Samuel	110, 155	Wooley, L. J.	139
Willey, Stephen	174	Worthen, David	45
Williams River	1		
Wills, Gov. William H.	181	Y.	
Wilson, the Rev. Miss	181	Yale College	13
Winter, Adolphus	165	Young, William	58
Winter, Royal	164, 166	Young, Winthrop	84, 86
Wolcott, Andrew	152	Youngman, N.	47, 82
Wolcott, Mrs. Andrew	157	"Young Traveller"	169
Wood, Dr. Nelson M.	133		



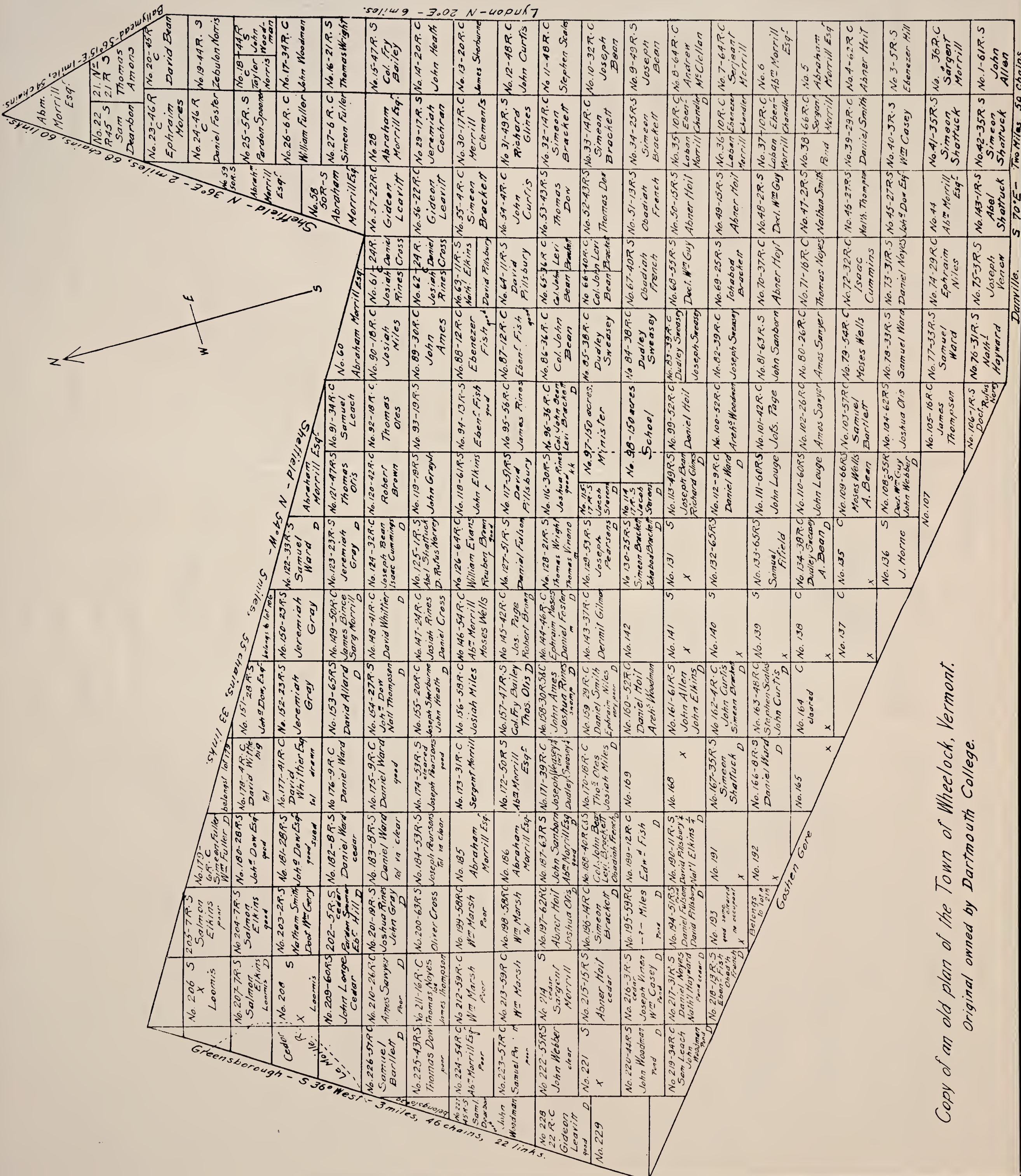
Wheelock, original leaseholders, from Dartmouth College records and copy in Mathewson Papers, VHS

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Willard, Frances E.	57, 166, 180	Woodman, Archaelus	107, 148
Willard, Josiah F.	178, 180	Woodman, Dea. John	51, 56, 130
Willard, Mary Thompson Hill	180	Woodman, Elder Jonathan	51, 127, 130, 178, 185, 187
Willard, Oliver A.	51, 57, 180	Woodman, Peter	57, 142
Willey, David	156	Woodward, Bezaleel	23, 76, 79
Willey, Rev. Elijah F.	78	Woodward, Wm. H.	27, 76, 88
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Wolcott, Mrs. Andrew	157	"Young Traveller"	169
Wood, Dr. Nelson M.	133		





Copy of an old plan of the Town of Wheelock, Vermont.  
Original owned by Dartmouth College.





Wheelock, from H. F. Walling's  
map of Caledonia County, 1858







DWICKSTREET

Scale 10000

80 rods

1/2 mile

1/4 mile

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1/16 mile

1/32 mile

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Wheelock, from Beers Atlas  
of Caledonia County, 1875



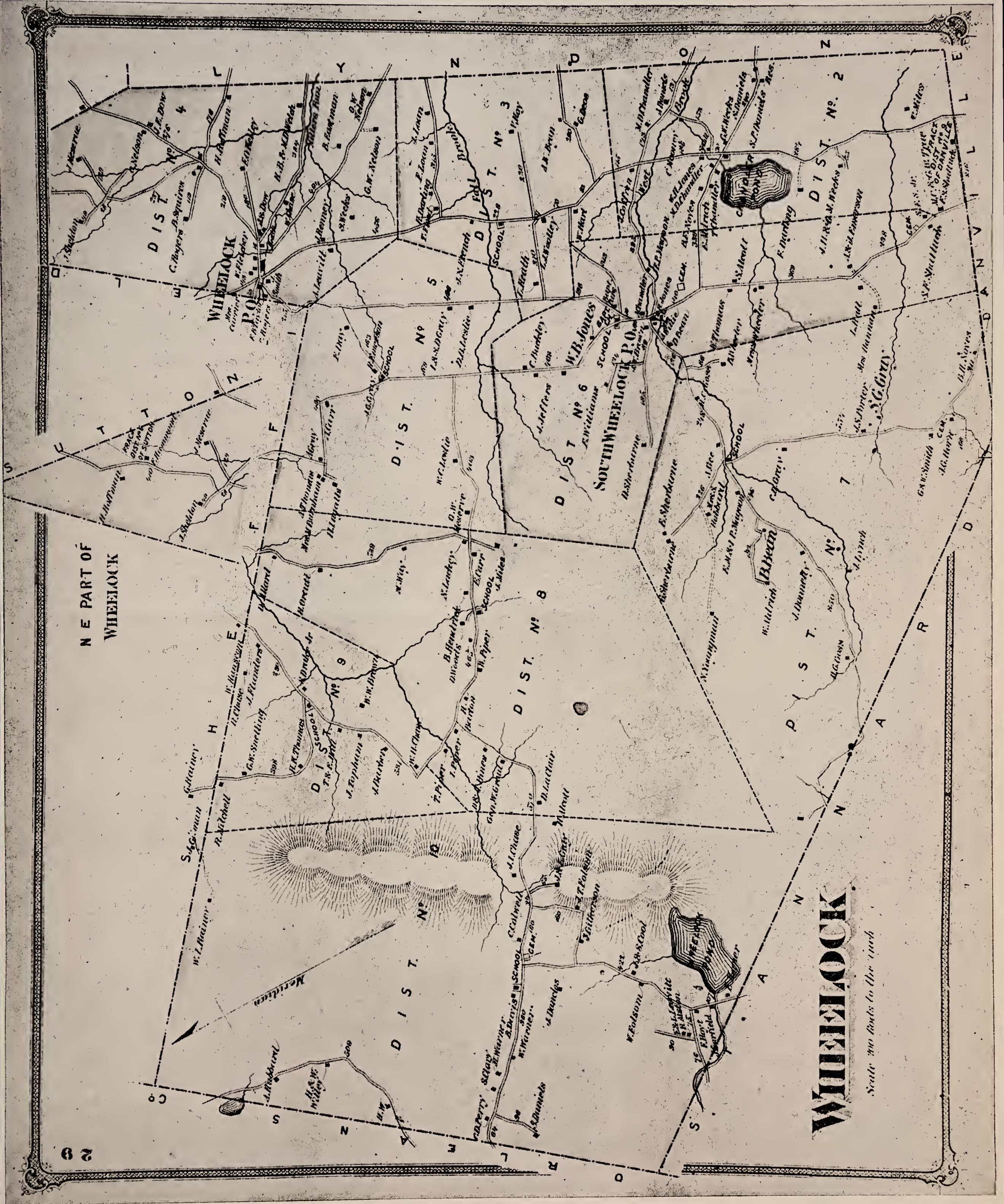




N E PART OF  
WHEELLOCK

WHEELLOCK

Scale 300 feet to the inch







Wheelock, from hand-drawn original in Mathewson Papers,  
VHS, showing farm owners of a later day











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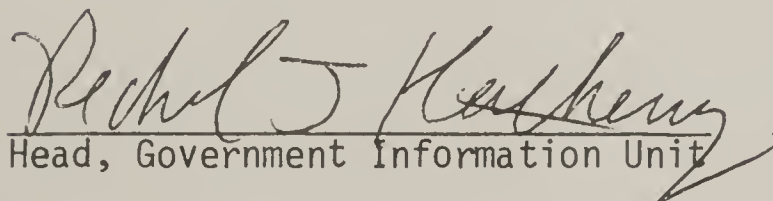
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